

BUZZ POINTS

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PAWAN STRONGLY WARNED YCP ONCE AGAIN

TPN Bureau | November 26

Amalapuram : Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has appealed to the people of Andhra Pradesh to extend their full support to the coalition government for at least 15 years, asserting that such a time frame is needed to rebuild villages and strengthen the state's foundations. Speaking at a massive public meeting at Siva Kodu village in Rajolu constituency of Dr. Ambedkar Konaseema district, organized as part of the "Palle Panduga 2.0" celebrations, the Jana Sena chief reiterated the alliance government's commitment to rural development and good governance. Pawan Kalyan began by highlighting the achievements of the "Palle Panduga" programme launched by the coalition government during the same period last year. He said that through this initiative, the government had taken up nearly 30,000 works across the state with an estimated expenditure of around 4,500 crore. The objective, he explained, was to promote cleanliness, strengthen local governance, and improve infrastructure in villages.



Calls for Patience and Long-Term Vision Addressing the gathering, Pawan Kalyan drew an analogy that resonated strongly with rural audiences: "Just as a family treats the elder son as a pillar of support, people should view this alliance government in the same way. Only then will the foundation for a prosperous Andhra Pradesh be laid." He urged citizens to cooperate with the government's long-term plans and to remain patient as the administration implements new reforms in governance, agriculture, and rural welfare. The coalition government needs uninterrupted time to undo past damage and bring positive

change to every village," he remarked, stressing that transformational progress cannot happen overnight. Criticism of YSRCP Leaders In a sharp attack on the opposition, Pawan Kalyan said that despite facing electoral defeat, YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders have not changed their behavior or political language. "Even today, their manner of speech, their personal abuses, and their arrogance remain the same," he said, adding that Andhra Pradesh deserves a more responsible opposition. He cautioned YSRCP leaders against continuing online abuses and inflammatory remarks on social media, saying that such behavior reflects

poorly on democratic politics. "Criticize us democratically, and we will accept and correct ourselves. But if this attitude persists, we too will show the strength of our resolve," Pawan warned, implying a firm stance against political provocation. Message to Youth and Party Cadre Pawan Kalyan, who has been a vocal advocate for accountability among public representatives, declared that he would not tolerate misdeeds even within his own party. "If anyone in our party makes a mistake, I will be the first to take action," he asserted. Encouraging young people to take part in local development, he called upon them to question

authorities about unresolved village issues. "Youth must act as the voice of their communities," he said, urging them to participate actively in governance by identifying problems in their surroundings and ensuring that government schemes reach every household. Response to YSRCP's Ambitions Reacting to YSRCP leaders' recent claims that they would return to power in 2029, Pawan Kalyan dismissed such statements as unrealistic. "I am saying this right here from the soil of Rajolu that will not happen," he declared emphatically, sparking cheers from the gathering. He added that the alliance government had earned the people's confidence by focusing on genuine development rather than propaganda. According to him, the Palle Panduga initiative represents the government's philosophy of inclusive progress — celebrating village life while addressing real infrastructure and welfare needs. As the meeting concluded, Pawan Kalyan reiterated his appeal for unity and patience. "Give us 15 years," he said, "and we will show what a transparent, responsible, and people-centric government can achieve."

YS Jagan slams Chandrababu for betraying farmers and destroying agrarian economy

TPN Bureau | November 26

Vijayawada: Former Chief Minister and YSRCP President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, after consolidating banana farmers at Brahmanapalli inYSRKadapa district, criticised Chandrababu Naidu's anti-farmer governance. He said that ever since Chandrababu became Chief Minister, the lives of farmers have only gone downhill. In the last 18 months alone, farmers suffered massive losses due to nearly 16 natural calamities, excess rains, drought, cyclones, but while thousands awaited input subsidy, Chandrababu gave them absolutely nothing. Even the recent Midhili cyclone damage, requiring Rs. 1,100 crore in compensation, was underestimated and the entire amount was conveniently denied. YS Jagan said the government not only refused input subsidy but also dismantled the free crop insurance system by stopping e-crop, depriving lakhs of farmers of their rightful insurance benefits. While the state has 84 lakh farmers, only 18 lakh are covered under crop insurance under the present regime, compared to the 80 lakh farmers covered under YSRCP's free insurance that delivered Rs. 7,400 crore in compensation. He said that after Chandrababu came to power,



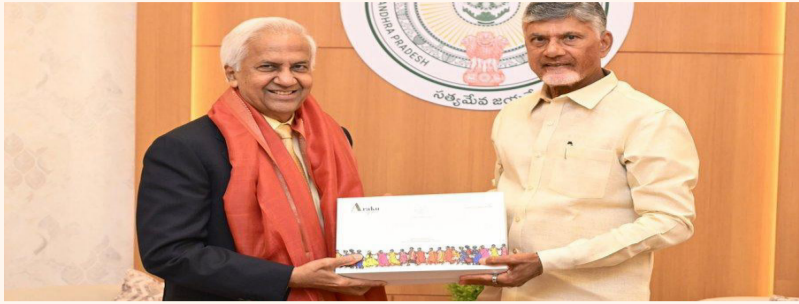
farmers were forced to buy fertilisers through the black market, while cultivation costs have shot up with no support from the government. Even the Rythu Bharosa/Annadata schemes became vehicles of deception: during YSRCP's term, farmers received Rs. 13,500 annually in three instalments, but Chandrababu promised Rs. 20,000 outside PM-Kisan and defaulted entirely in the first year. Over two years, while farmers were owed Rs. 40,000, they received only Rs. 10,000; the remaining Rs. 30,000 was simply denied. Thus, farmers today have neither investment support, nor input subsidy, nor crop insurance. YS Jagan said there is no remunerative price for any crop under Chandrababu's rule. From paddy and pulses to chilli, to bacco, onion, tomato, ba-

nana, coconut, mango, no crop is receiving a fair price. Middlemen, in collusion with Chandrababu, have pushed farmers to ruin. He contrasted this with YSRCP's governance, where every acre was e-cropped, prices were displayed transparently at RBKs, the CM App monitored market rates, and officials intervened immediately to procure crops. The previous government procured produce worth Rs. 7,746 crore and even protected farmers during COVID. Highlighting the tragic collapse of banana prices, he said that during YSRCP's tenure, the average price was Rs. 25,000 per tonne, going up to Rs. 32,000. Today, not even Rs. 2,000 is offered, leaving entire crops rotting on trees. Under YSRCP, Andhra Pradesh's banana exports rose from 25,000 tonnes to 3 lakh tonnes, with

special rail services from Anantapur to Delhi and Banaganapalli to Guwahati, earning national awards from ICAR and the Banana Exporters Association. All of this progress, he said, has now been destroyed. YS Jagan accused Chandrababu of habitual diversionary politics, making false claims of speaking to "10,000 farmers," promising onion procurement at Rs. 1,200 per quintal or Rs. 50,000 per hectare compensation, and then abandoning every promise. Yellow media amplifies his lies while suppressing the suffering of farmers. YS Jagan warned that if Chandrababu continues to neglect farmers, the YSRCP will launch a people's movement. He highlighted Chandrababu's refusal to clear dues: Rs. 5,600 crore pending in fee reimbursement (with

only Rs. 700 crore released), Rs. 2,200 crore pending under Vasathi Deevana, nearly Rs. 6,000 crore total dues, arrears to women under promised schemes, cuts in Ammavodi, reduction of pension beneficiaries from 66 lakh to 61 lakh, and the collapse of every welfare system. He further condemned the wholesale looting of government resources, selling off medical colleges, plundering silica and quartz mines, and reckless spending in Amravati at over Rs. 10,000 per sq.ft. YS Jagan said that if Chandrababu does not change course, intense public movements will erupt, and the people themselves will bring down his government. "The time to unseat Chandrababu Naidu is near," he said.

Reliance JV announces 98,000 Crore AI data park in Visakhapatna



TPN Bureau | November 26

Visakhapatnam: The Government of Andhra Pradesh has formalized a landmark agreement with Digital Connexion, a joint venture comprising Reliance Industries, Brookfield, and Digital Realty, to establish a world-class, AI-native data centre park in Visakhapatnam with an investment of 98,000 crore by 2030. This facility will develop 1 Gigawatt (GW) of data centre capacity across approximately 400 acres, positioning Andhra Pradesh as a leading hub for advanced digital infrastructure and AI technology. The data centre complex will feature high-density AI-ready racks, dedicated power substations, redundant power feeds, and robust connectivity tailored to support hyperscalers, enterprise clients, cloud services, and future AI workloads. The project received strong support from the Andhra Pradesh government, which pledged to facilitate land allocation, expedite regulatory clearances, and ensure steady power and connectivity to aid seamless execution. This initiative is expected to generate substantial employment opportunities during construction and operational phases, besides fostering ancillary services and nurturing the regional digital ecosystem. The data centre follows a clear vision to transform Andhra Pradesh into a national hub for AI, cloud infrastructure, and technology-driven economic growth. Digital Connexion's investment of about \$11 billion (98,000 crore) marks one of the largest infrastructure commitments in the state's digital roadmap. The data centre will be purposely built to meet global standards, supporting the next decade of AI innovation with future-ready systems and infrastructure. It aligns with similar major investments in India's digital infrastructure sector, such as Google's recent announcement for an AI hub in Visakhapatnam. Digital Connexion already operates a large campus in Chennai and is constructing another in Mumbai, and this expansion strengthens its footprint across India's major digital corridors. Notably,

the Reliance-led venture plans to integrate sustainable energy solutions for the data centre, including a complementary 6 GW solar power project in Andhra Pradesh that will contribute significantly to the region's renewable energy capacity. This sustainable power initiative highlights a commitment to clean and green energy while powering advanced AI infrastructure. The data centre is designed to host the world's most sophisticated processors like GPUs (graphics processing units) and TPUs (tensor processing units), capable of handling high-density, AI-driven workloads. Overall, this project catalyzes Andhra Pradesh's ambition to emerge as a global leader in AI and cloud computing infrastructure, driving innovation, competitiveness, and socio-economic upliftment. The initiative aims to democratize access to AI tools, empowering various sectors including students, farmers, entrepreneurs, and industries through advanced digital services, cementing the state's role in India's futuristic technology ecosystem.

AP School mock Assembly gets huge response



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Amravathi: The Andhra Pradesh School Mock Assembly held at the AP Assembly premises received an enthusiastic response, with 175 students participating as MLAs and Ministers, while lakhs of students across the state watched the session virtually. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu praised the students for their active involvement, highlighting the significance of utilizing crises as opportunities in life. He shared his personal journey of becoming an MLA at 28, a minister at 30, and serving as Chief Minister for the fourth time, motivating students to embrace leadership roles early. The Chief Minister explained the greatness of the Indian Constitution, emphasizing its democratic spirit that allows a chaiwala to become Prime Minister and a tribal woman to become President. He urged students to follow constitutional guidelines and use assembly sessions for societal benefit rather than personal attacks. Naidu especially encouraged girl stu-

dents to face challenges boldly without fear. He also lauded the country's progress under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, highlighting that India has become the fourth-largest economy with prospects to become number one soon. Naidu shared his personal experiences of studying under kerosene lamps and later introducing power sector reforms as Chief Minister, which now enables people to generate solar power on their rooftops. Stressing ethics education, he announced the appointment of Chaganti Koteswara Rao to teach ethics to students and released a special book titled "Constitution of India for Children" to deepen young learners' understanding of the constitution. Assembly Speaker Ch. Ayanna Patrudu addressed the students, questioning the justification of MLAs claiming salaries without attending assembly sessions. He elaborated on the Assembly's role in approving every government action, including financial expenditures. Patrudu congratulated Minister Nara Lokesh for organizing this innovative program aimed

at raising awareness among lakhs of students about legislative functions, thus fostering democratic values among youth. Minister for IT and HR, Nara Lokesh, along with other ministers, participated in the session, supporting this unique initiative where students enacted roles of MLAs, ministers, and opposition members in a lively, well-structured legislative simulation. The mock assembly included debate, question hour, and passage of bills on social media regulation and environmental protection. This initiative by the Andhra Pradesh government, particularly the Education Department, aims to cultivate respect for the democratic process, leadership skills, and civic responsibility among students, preparing them as future responsible citizens. This mock assembly event marks a significant step towards educating young people on constitutional rights and parliamentary procedures, while promoting active participation and ethical governance principles at an early age in Andhra Pradesh schools.

CM suggests third party auditing on road mishaps

TPN Bureau | November 26
Amaravathi: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has taken serious steps to address the alarming road accident situation in Andhra Pradesh by directing officials to undertake third-party audits on road mishaps. The aim is to identify whether the cause of accidents lies with the vehicle, driver, or engineering flaws in road infrastructure. Speaking at a road safety council meeting, the Chief Minister expressed concern over the death of 6,433 people in 15,462 road accidents so far in the year 2025.

The data presented to the Chief Minister revealed that one-third of the accidents involved two-wheelers, with 53 percent being self-accidents of cars and two-wheelers. Andhra Pradesh ranks eighth in the country for the number of road accidents. The districts with notably high accident rates included Nellore, Tirupati, Palnadu, Annamayya, and Kakinada. Speeding was the



leading cause, responsible for 79 percent of accidents, followed by wrong side driving (3 percent) and mobile phone usage while driving (1 percent). National highways accounted for 42 percent of accidents, while state highways contributed 21 percent.

To curb the rising accidents, the Chief Minister instructed that speed governors be installed in vehicles according to rules and proposed the installation of CCTV cameras every half kilometre

on both national and state highways. He emphasized following Supreme Court committee guidelines and called for the establishment of modern driving training centers, including locations like Adoni and Darsi.

Additionally, officials were urged to address identified black spots at 680 locations on national highways. The Chief Minister also took a tough stance on unauthorized alterations to sleeper buses, which have been link

ed to increased accidents. He directed a detailed study of bus registrations in eastern states and suggested issuing warnings to violators to raise awareness among vehicle users.

The introduction of automated testing centers to assess vehicle fitness was recommended. Furthermore, the CM proposed organizing state and district-level road safety programs on the third Sunday of every month, fostering cooperation among police, transport,

and engineering departments to enhance road safety.

These measures come amid growing concerns over high fatality rates in road mishaps in Andhra Pradesh, with the state consistently recording thousands of accidents and deaths annually. Naidu's directives focus on comprehensive actions, combining technological, regulatory, and educational efforts to significantly reduce accidents and save lives on the state's roads

CM Chandrababu Naidu, Minister Lokesh Extend Greetings on Constitution Day; Reaffirm Commitment to Constitutional Ideals



TPN Bureau | November 26
Amaravati: On the occasion of Constitution Day and National Law Day, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and State IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh extended their greetings to the people, pledging to uphold the values enshrined in the Indian Constitution. Both leaders marked the day by sharing heartfelt messages on the social media platform X, emphasizing the importance of protecting constitutional principles and democratic institutions.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, in his message, described November 26 as a historic day that commemorates the adoption of the Constitution of India the guiding document that continues to shape the world's largest democracy. He stated that the Indian Constitution stands as a beacon of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity, inspiring the nation to progress toward inclusive development.

"On this day, we remember the visionary architects of our Constitution, especially Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the chief architect whose profound wisdom and democratic ideals laid the foundation for

modern India," Naidu wrote. "As citizens, it is our collective responsibility to protect and uphold the spirit of the Constitution that safeguards our rights and defines the responsibilities that bind us together as one nation."

The Chief Minister added that the guiding principles of the Constitution would serve as the compass for Andhra Pradesh's growth trajectory. He reiterated his government's commitment to building a "Swarna Andhra" (Golden Andhra Pradesh) that reflects the aspirations of the people within the framework of justice and equality. "As we strive to transform Andhra Pradesh into a developed and progressive state, our Constitution's values will continue to guide us," Naidu affirmed.

Minister for Information Technology and Education Nara Lokesh also conveyed his greetings, expressing deep respect for the framers of the Constitution and their contribution to the democratic fabric of the nation. In his post, Lokesh highlighted the role of the Constitution in ensuring every citizen's dignity and empowerment through education, opportunity, and equal rights.



IPS Probationers Selected for Andhra Pradesh Call on State Officials, Express Commitment to Serve

TPN Bureau | November 26
Amaravathi: In a gesture symbolizing dedication and goodwill, the newly selected Indian Police Service (IPS) officers who have been allotted to the Andhra Pradesh cadre under the 77th Regular Recruitment of the UPSC met senior state officials and offered floral greetings as a mark of respect and courtesy. The officers Ashwin Manideep, Niranjan Mahendra Singh Jadhav Rao, and Jaya Sharma expressed happiness over being assigned to Andhra Pradesh and reaffirmed their commitment to upholding law and order in the state.

The meeting was both formal and symbolic, reflecting the officers' enthusiasm to begin their careers in public service in one of India's most administratively dynamic and diverse states. The officers interacted with senior police and administrative authorities and discussed various aspects of policing, governance, and public welfare initiatives currently being implemented across Andhra Pradesh. Officials advised the young officers to remain steadfast in their duty, main-

tain integrity in service, and ensure the protection of citizens' rights.

They emphasized the values of transparency, accountability, and compassion that form the foundation of the Indian Police Service. The new IPS officers were urged to dedicate themselves to the welfare of the people, particularly in rural and underserved regions that require a proactive and community-oriented policing approach. Expressing their gratitude, the probationary officers said it was an honour to serve in a state known for its administrative efficiency and commitment to reform-oriented policing.

They remarked that Andhra Pradesh, with its rapidly developing infrastructure and evolving law-and-order challenges, offers a unique opportunity to gain field experience and contribute meaningfully to society. One of the officers noted that the state's police department has a strong reputation for professionalism and innovation, setting standards in technology-driven crime control, community policing, and disaster management.

They added that joining such a force was both

inspiring and motivating and promised to work diligently to uphold its traditions. Senior officials gave a special mention to the importance of training and continuous learning in the IPS. They advised that effective policing requires not only physical strength and administrative discipline but also empathy, sensitivity, and confidence in dealing with people from all walks of life.

The officers were also reminded about the importance of maintaining impartiality and fairness while enforcing the law. The interaction concluded with an assurance from the new recruits that they would strive to perform their duties with complete dedication and uphold the dignity of the Indian Police Service.

Their selection to the Andhra Pradesh cadre was described as both an honour and a responsibility, which they vowed to meet with commitment and a focus on service to the public. The induction of these officers marks a new addition to the state's administrative strength, with the promise of renewed energy and youthful commitment in ensuring peace, security, and justice across Andhra Pradesh.

A New Era for India's Workforce Begins with Implementation of Labour Codes: Minister Vasamsetti Subhash

TPN Bureau | November 26
Vijayawada: India has entered a transformative new chapter in labour governance with the long-awaited rollout of the four labour codes—an overhaul described as one of the most significant reforms since Independence.



These codes aim to modernize the country's labour laws, simplify compliance, and extend long-denied protections to millions of workers across diverse sectors.

For decades, India's labour landscape was shaped by 29 scattered and often outdated laws. This fragmentation led to ambiguity, complex compliance norms, and limited coverage for vulnerable workers. The new labour codes consolidate these laws into four clear pillars: the Code on Wages (2019), Code on Social Security (2020), Industrial Relations Code (2020), and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (2020). Together, they promise greater transparency, efficiency, and inclusivity.

Perhaps the most sweeping transformation is the extension of legal protections to nearly 40 crore workers, including gig and platform workers, unorganized labourers, and fixed-term employees. Benefits such as minimum wages, social security,

and gratuity—previously restricted largely to the organized sector—are now designed to become universal rights. In states like Andhra Pradesh, where a substantial share of the workforce operates in the unorganized sector, this shift could provide millions of families with long-needed economic security.

The codes also introduce changes in work hours and leave entitlements. While the 8-hour workday and 48-hour workweek are retained, employers may distribute these hours flexibly—offering, for instance, four 12-hour days or five 9.5-hour days. Though beneficial for industries with dynamic operational needs, the model demands careful implementation to safeguard workers from fatigue and exploitation.

A progressive change is the reduction of annual paid-leave eligibility from 240 to 180 working days. This reform particularly benefits workers in sectors like textiles, retail, manufacturing, and

construction, improving well-being and productivity. Additionally, workers above 40 are now entitled to free annual health check-ups, while the extension of ESIC medical benefits to plantation and hazardous-sector workers addresses long-standing inequities.

The codes reinforce gender equality by mandating equal wages and removing employment barriers for women, supporting efforts to boost female labour force participation. On the industry front, streamlined compliance through single registrations and unified returns is expected to enhance ease of doing business and attract investment.

Nara Lokesh Highlights 'Children's Constitution of India' at Mock Assembly in Amaravati

TPN Bureau | November 26
Amaravati: On the occasion of Constitution Day, Andhra Pradesh Minister for Human Resource Development Nara Lokesh participated in a special student mock assembly held at the Andhra Pradesh Assembly premises. The event, attended by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and several other ministers, aimed to educate students about parliamentary proceedings and constitutional values. Addressing the gathering after the mock drill, Minister Lokesh said the government had initially planned to conduct the mock assembly inside the main Assembly hall.

However, due to procedural restrictions, Speaker advised that it be held in the Assembly premises instead. Lokesh thanked all officials, teachers, and organizers who extended their support in making the event a success. Marking the day India adopted its Constitution, Lokesh unveiled a new initiative a Children's Constitution of India designed to help younger audiences understand the principles and ideals of the nation's founding document.

"The Constitution is the soul of India," he said, noting that the book includes simplified explanations of the roles played by national leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. Empha-



sizing the importance of moral values and family upbringing, Lokesh spoke about parental influence on a child's character and success. He referred to spiritual speaker Chaganti Koteswara Rao's message that a person who can honestly tell their mother about their actions will grow into a responsible citizen. Lokesh revealed that he had conveyed the same message to the Chief Minister, noting that Chaganti had expressed willingness to serve as an advisor with cabinet rank without any remuneration, committing to fund his responsibilities personally.

The Minister reiterated that the state government is striving to improve the education system with initiatives like the One Class, One Teacher policy to strengthen teaching quality across schools. He urged greater collaboration among students, teachers, and parents to ensure all-round development of children. Reflecting on his personal upbringing, Lokesh credited his discipline and determination to the guidance of his mother, Bhuvanawari. "Whenever I made a mistake, my mother corrected me immediately,"

he recalled, encouraging students to value parental discipline.

He advised everyone to use respectful language towards women, stating that phrases mocking femininity or emotional expression should be avoided. Lokesh pointed out that over 45,000 government school students had watched the live telecast of the mock assembly across the state. He urged participants to engage in discussions based on facts, rather than conflicts, and to uphold democratic values.

Recalling his Yuvgalam Padayatra, during which he carried a copy of the Constitution, Lokesh shared how he once questioned police officers about their constitutional duties, only to realize many were unaware of them. An experience that strengthened his resolve to promote constitutional literacy from a young age. Concluding his address, Lokesh encouraged students to grow into citizens who make Andhra Pradesh and India proud wherever they go in the world, upholding the ideals of equality, justice, and integrity embedded in the nation's Constitution.

Dy CM Assures Konaseema Coconut Farmers of Comprehensive Drainage Solutions

TPN Bureau | November 26
Amaravathi: Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan toured Ambedkar Konaseema district on Wednesday to review the long-pending issues faced by coconut farmers due to the Shankaragupam drain. During his visit, he interacted directly with the affected farmers and assured them that at the government would formulate a comprehensive plan after Sankranti to address the drainage problems across the district.

Speaking with farmers at Keshanapalli, Pawan Kalyan made several key statements, reaffirming his commitment to stand by the coconut cultivators who are facing severe losses because of water stagnation and poor maintenance of the drain. He stated that his visit was not for political publicity but to understand the root causes of the issue and initiate practical solutions with the support of the central government. "I have not come here to make noise after releasing small funds and leave. We will frame an action plan for the resolution of the drainage problem after Sankranti. The mistakes made by the past YSRCP government are being corrected



one by one," Pawan Kalyan remarked. He added that the present administration is trying to expose the true picture of the state's financial condition and accused the previous regime of misleading people with false claims. Pawan Kalyan asserted that he would become the voice of Konaseema's coconut farmers and fight for their rights until their issues are resolved. Referring to the Rs. 22 crore released earlier for temporary works, he said that such inadequate allocations would not be sufficient to solve the underlying problem.

During the review meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister also issued a

subtle warning to officials, urging them to act responsibly. He read out parts of the official report on the Shankaragupam drain and questioned why the encroachments along the drainage channel had been ignored for so long. Stressing the need for accountability, he said that officers must develop a complete understanding of the problem and implement solutions without delay.

Pawan also recalled the earlier report submitted by the irrigation expert Rosayya Committee and criticized officials for sidelining its recommendations. He emphasized that the government is determined to rectify past administrative lapses and restore confidence among farmers by ensuring that the long-pending drainage and irrigation concerns are resolved systematically.

MLC Bhumireddy dares YS Jagan



TPN Bureau | November 26
Amaravati: Telugu Desam Party (TDP) MLC Bhumireddy Rangopal Reddy challenged Former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to prove that banana crop insurance dues were paid in the past five years, promising to resign his MLC post if the claim is verified. He questioned Jagan whether he would resign if the proof is not provided. Rangopal Reddy accused Jagan of ruining Pulivendula farmers and demanded answers regarding additional water supply to Rayalaseema between 2019 and 2024, especially for banana cultivation. He also asked why farmer suicides were high during this period, highlighting farmers' distress over temporary problems due to increased crop area and yields. Jagan responded by assuring that

banana farmers' issues will be resolved soon, urging farmers not to worry. He blamed past irregularities for the failure of the Pulivendula banana processing unit to thrive and said their government is working to restore stability in the sector. Jagan also promised that once he appears in the Assembly, all facts will be revealed to clarify the situation. The dispute arises amid concerns over unpaid crop insurance and water resources critical for banana farming in Rayalaseema. The TDP alleges neglect of farmers and lack of support, while Jagan's camp asserts that their tenure took steps for farmer welfare, including crop insurance payment during their regime. The government has plans for a banana processing cluster in Pulivendula, with financial aid from the Centre's traditional industries

scheme to boost farmer income and infrastructure. Technical support and facilities for banana fiber products and value-added goods production are being developed, aiming to uplift the horticulture sector in Rayalaseema. Water supply to Rayalaseema has been a long-standing issue with projects like Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation under execution to improve irrigation and reduce drought impact, but utilization has been sub-optimal. Jagan's administration claims efforts to augment water supply and infrastructure are ongoing despite historical challenges. The local political contention reflects deeper agricultural policy debates and farmer distress in the region, with calls for accountability and actionable solutions from both sides.

TDP Leader Hacked to Death in Nellore District; Police Launch Probe

TPN Bureau | November 26
Nellore: A shocking murder in Jaladanki mandal of Nellore district has sent waves of tension across the region after a local Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader was brutally killed on Wednesday evening. The deceased, identified as Gottipati Prasad, a prominent TDP functionary from Gattupalli Chintalapalem village, was allegedly attacked and murdered by unidentified assailants at his poultry farm located on the outskirts of the village.



According to initial reports, Prasad was working at his poultry shed when a group of individuals accosted him. The assailants, reportedly armed with sharp weapons, slit his throat, killing him on the spot before fleeing the scene. Villagers who noticed the incident alerted the local police, following which officers from Jaladanki Police Station rushed to the spot. Police have cordoned off the area and initiated a thorough investigation.

Forensic teams have been deployed to collect evidence, and sniffer dogs are being used to trace the movement of the culprits. Police officials said that preliminary findings suggest a possible personal grudge or political rivalry as the motive behind the murder, but all angles are being examined. Superintendent of Police (SP) Nellore directed special

teams to track down the accused and bring them to justice. The body has been shifted to the government hospital for post-mortem examination. Family members and local TDP activists expressed deep anguish over the incident, demanding swift action and immediate arrest of those responsible. TDP leaders at the district level strongly condemned the killing and alleged

that political intimidation and lawlessness have been increasing in the region. They urged the state government to ensure the safety of political workers irrespective of party affiliation. Several TDP cadres gathered at the site and later staged a protest demanding justice for Prasad. Local residents described Prasad as an active and well-respected leader known for his involve-

ment in community service and party work. The murder, carried out in broad daylight, has created fear and unrest in the otherwise quiet village. Police forces have been deployed in the area to prevent any further disturbances. A case has been registered under relevant sections, and an intensive manhunt is underway to apprehend the attackers.

TDP Govt shows more love for LuLu mall than Ambedkar Smriti Vanam

TPN Bureau | November 26
Vijayawada: Marking Constitution Day, senior YSRCP leaders took out a rally from the party central office in Tadepalli to the Ambedkar Smriti Vanam, Social Justice Memorial—in Vijayawada, strongly condemning the TDP-led coalition government for allowing the memorial to fall into neglect. Leaders said the government's apathy is driven not by administrative failure but by political vengeance against former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, who built the 125-ft Dr B.R. Ambedkar statue in the heart of Vijayawada. After reaching the memorial, the YSRCP leaders held a dharna with placards, raised slogans against the government's discriminatory approach, and offered floral tributes to Ambedkar's portrait. Speaking at the site, YSRCP leaders said that while Ambedkar gave In-



dia equality, civil liberties, and constitutional rights, the TDP coalition is running the state with a "Red Book Constitution," suppressing freedom of speech, misusing laws, and unleashing vendetta on Dalits and opposition voices. They reminded the public how the previous TDP regime tried to con-

fine Ambedkar's statue to thorny bushes, whereas Jagan as Chief Minister proudly installed a grand 125-foot statue at the city's centre, turning Ambedkar's vision into a living symbol of social justice. They accused the coalition government of deliberately abandoning the upkeep of Ambedkar Smriti Van for one and a

half years, simply because it stands as a testament to Jagan's commitment to Dalit empowerment. YSRCP leaders charged that the government shows greater interest in LuLu Mall construction than in maintaining a national symbol of social justice like Ambedkar Smriti Van. They said

the park workers have not been paid and the memorial grounds are now in disrepair—proof that the coalition has no respect for the Constitution it pretends to celebrate. They warned that Dalit pride cannot be erased and that the people will soon deliver a befitting lesson to the government for insulting Ambedkar repeatedly. They asserted that those who govern with prejudice and vengeance have no moral right to observe Constitution Day. Former ministers Merugu Nagarjuna and Vellampalli Srinivas, former MLAs Malladi Vishnu, Mondaitikka Jagannathan Rao, Nallagatla Swamidass, former MP Nandigam Suresh, party SC Cell state president TJ Sudhakar Babu, district president Devineni Avinash, Vijayawada Mayor Rayana Bhagyalakshmi, and several other senior leaders participated in the programme.

Bhanu Prakash Reddy Slams Bhumana Karunakar Reddy Over Parakamani Remarks, Says Devotees Deeply Hurt



TPN Bureau | November 26
Tirumala: Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Board member Bhanu Prakash Reddy launched a scathing attack on former TTD Chairman Bhumana Karunakar Reddy following his recent remarks after appearing in court in connection with the Parakamani case. Speaking to the media on Wednesday, Bhanu Prakash Reddy alleged that Bhumana Karunakar Reddy's comments had deeply hurt the sentiments of millions of Lord Venkateswara devotees. Bhanu Prakash Reddy accused the former chairman of diverting attention from the key issues related to the Parakamani case by making irrelevant statements. He described Bhumana's statements as "pitta kathali" (meaning trivial or distracting stories), asserting that they neither addressed the core allegations nor provided clarity on the actions taken during his tenure. The TTD Board member questioned the ra-

tionale behind Bhumana's approval of a governing council resolution that, according to him, effectively turned "a thief into a donor." He asked how a resolution endorsing such a controversial move could have received Bhumana's signature if he truly believed the decision was wrong. "If Bhumana had no connection with the decision, why did he affix his signature? He must explain this directly to the devotees of Lord Venkateswara," Bhanu demanded. He further raised serious questions about the disappearance of essential CCTV footage related to the theft at Parakamani, the temple's coin-counting section. "Why was the footage showing the theft removed? Who ordered its deletion? The temple administration's integrity is at stake," Bhanu Prakash Reddy said, expressing deep concern over what he described as attempts to suppress key evidence. The TTD member also targeted

senior official V.I. Shiva Shankar Reddy, asking why no disciplinary action had been initiated despite several complaints and allegations against him. "There must be accountability in the administration of the sacred temple. People entrusted with responsibility cannot act with impunity," he stated. Bhanu Prakash Reddy asserted that every single rupee stolen from Parakamani would be recovered, affirming his commitment to ensuring justice is served in the case. He said that he and other TTD members would continue the fight until all those responsible are brought to justice. "This is not merely a financial issue; it is a matter of faith and devotion," he remarked, emphasizing that the board owed transparency and justice to the millions of pilgrims who donate to the temple. Criticizing what he called moral contradictions, Bhanu used strong language to question Karunakar Reddy's credibility.

MD APGENCO & JMD APTRANSCO Call on Power Sector Employees to Uphold Constitutional Values and Deliver Quality Public Service

TPN Bureau | November 26

Vijayawada: On the occasion of Constitution Day-2025 (Samvidhan Diwas), MD APGENCO S. Nagalakshmi said that the Indian Constitution stands as a testament to the extraordinary foresight of Dr. BR Ambedkar and the Drafting Committee, who integrated the diverse social and cultural values of the nation after Independence and ensured equal rights and

safeguards for every citizen.

MD APGENCO noted that the Articles and Schedules framed in 1946-47 continue to remain relevant even today, underscoring the strength and timelessness of the Constitution. Highlighting that changing times and evolving national priorities demand adaptability, MD APGENCO emphasized that the core constitutional values such as justice, equality,

liberty, and fraternity must always be protected and upheld. MD APGENCO urged employees to draw inspiration from the Constitution and perform their duties with greater dedication, transparency, and responsibility. MD APGENCO S. Nagalakshmi and JMD APTRANSCO G. Surya Sai Praveenchand urged employees of the power sector to uphold the constitutional values of integrity, accountability,

and public service, stating that reliable and quality power supply is fundamental to public welfare.

To mark the occasion, the MD APGENCO, JMD APTRANSCO and Directors of APGENCO & APTRANSCO garlanded the statue of Bharat Ratna Dr. BR Ambedkar at Vidhut Soudha, Vijayawada, and paid floral tributes, recalling his monumental contribution to drafting the Indian Constitution

and shaping India's democratic foundation.

JMD APTRANSCO G. Surya Sai Praveenchand led the reading of the Preamble, followed by the staff of APTRANSCO and APGENCO, reaffirming their collective commitment to the Constitution and its ideals. Senior officials of power utilities participated in the programme and joined in paying respects to the architect of the Indian Constitution.



AP CM to lay foundation for 260 crore project



TPN Bureau | November 26

Vijayawada: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is scheduled to lay the foundation stone for the Rs 260 crore development project of the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple at Venkatapalem on Thursday at 10:30 a.m. The temple expansion works will be carried out in multiple phases, with the first phase involving an investment of Rs 140 crore to construct a compound wall, a seven-storied maha gopuram, Arjita Seva mandapam, Radha mandapam, Anjaneya Swamy temple, and Pushkarini (temple tank) works.

The subsequent phases will focus on developing the temple mada street, approach roads, Annadanam complex, Yatri Nivas, quarters for archakas and staff, administrative buildings, dhyana mandir, and vehicle parking areas. This project resumed after the current NDA government decided to revive the expansion and development plans of the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple that were previously cancelled

by the earlier government.

The state had originally allotted 25.417 acres of land to the temple before 2019, but the area was subsequently reduced, which halted prior expansion plans. With the renewed focus and allocation, the government aims to create a comprehensive spiritual center with modern amenities for the large number of devotees who visit the temple daily, a figure that doubles on weekends. The Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple is a significant religious site attracting thousands of devotees, and the development works are expected to substantially enhance its infrastructure and facilities. The temple authorities, along with local villagers, are currently organizing Anna prasadam (food offerings) daily for the devotees, reflecting the vibrant and active community involvement.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's vision for this project is to develop the temple into not only a place of worship but a spiritual hub equipped with all necessary amenities for the comfort and



Rights and duties are two sides of a coin: Governor Abdul Nazeer

TPN Bureau | November 26

Vijayawada: Governor Abdul Nazeer participated as chief guest at the 76th Constitution Day celebrations held at Durbar Hall in Raj Bhavan here on Wednesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Abdul Nazeer has said that the Constitution Day is celebrated not only to commemorate adoption of the Constitution of India but also to promote Constitutional values among all citizens. The Governor said that



right, said the Governor.

Earlier, Governor Abdul Nazeer offered floral tributes to the portrait of Bharat Ratna Dr. BR Ambedkar, chief architect of the Indian Constitution and members of the Constitution Drafting Committee, followed by reading of the Preamble to the Constitution by the Governor and repeated by the dignitaries present.

First Lady Sameera Nazeer, Judges of High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Judicial Officers, Chairmen of various statutory bodies, K Vijayanand, Chief Secretary, G. Anantha Ramu, Special Chief Secretary to Governor, and other dignitaries attended the programme.

Coalition leaders filed a police complaint seeking legal action against those singing songs insulting Brahmins

TPN Bureau | November 26

Vijayawada: AP State Brahmin Welfare Corporation Director Velagaleti Gangadhar and coalition leaders filed a complaint at Arandulpeta Police Station in Guntur on Wednesday, seeking legal action against those who sing songs insulting Brahmins.

Gangadhar stated that singer G.D. Sarayya sang offensive songs at a Dappu Chandranna reform assembly, mocking Brahmin customs and the community, which was viewed as humiliating the entire Brahmin caste. He emphasised that the Indian Constitution guarantees the right to practice one's religion and caste freely, but insulting others' religion or caste is an offence.

Velagaleti Gangadhar, in his complaint, pointed out that Sarayya's popular YouTube song disparaged the sacred thread (jandhyam) worn by Brahmins, which is revered as Gayatri Mata. He claimed that the song's disrespect was

seen as an insult to Brahmins and other communities (Vaishyas, Kshatriyas, and Chaturvarnas) who also wear the thread and worship Gayatri as a deity.

The coalition leaders from BJP, Telugu Desam, and Jana Sena demanded immediate removal of the song from YouTube and criminal action against the singers, including G.D. Narasayya and Pallavolu Ramana. They warned that if police fail to act, they will pursue private legal cases. They condemned actions that incite communal disharmony and urged strict and timely policing against those provoking caste and religious tensions.



Acchennaidu assures cotton farmers of purchase

TPN Bureau | November 26

Medikonduru: The Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister K. Atchannaidu has assured cotton farmers in Medikonduru and surrounding areas that the government will purchase the entire cotton produce, and there is no need for farmers to worry about sales or distress. The minister, accompanied by MLA Sravan Kumar and other leaders, visited the cotton procurement center in the Parecherla village area on Tuesday, inspecting cotton quality on the spot. During the visit, farmers raised concerns about difficulties caused by high moisture content in cotton, delays in procurement processes, and the Kapas Kisan app not functioning properly for real-time booking and data transfer.

The minister critically questioned the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) officials about the lack of adequate staff and smooth operations at procurement centers, ordering immediate resolution of these issues. He also mentioned that the state government has requested the central government to increase the permissible moisture content in cotton procurement from 12% to 18%, citing damage caused by recent adverse weather conditions, and shared that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has sent a personal letter to the Centre on the matter.

The minister spoke on the phone with the central Minister



Rammohan Naidu to discuss these requests. Officials from the state's marketing department, including director Vijayasunita and joint marketing director K. Anumanu Srinivasarao, participated in the inspection along with local cotton growers and leaders such as Jana Sena district president Gade Venkateswara Rao and assistant director Satyanarayana

Choudary.

The group also visited the Kariyadu Haribrahmayya cotton gin, a key processing center in the area, to review procurement operations and quality control measures. Farmers emphasized that the current system's restrictions, such as phased opening of ginning mills (L1, L2, L3), compel them to travel long distances to sell their cotton, adding to their hardship. They appealed for simultaneous operation of all mills to ease the selling process. The minister assured resolving these logistical and operational challenges promptly. The government of Andhra Pradesh has taken several steps to streamline cotton procurement for the Kharif 2025-26 season. Approximately 5.39 lakh hectares have been

cultivated with an estimated output of 8 lakh metric tonnes. The state has digitized procurement processes using the CM app linked to Aadhaar-based e-crop data, although integration challenges with the newer Kapas Kisan app remain, affecting slot bookings for farmers. The state has designated 11 agricultural markets and 64 ginning mills as procurement centers, with 30 centers proposed statewide to cater to farmers. However, delays in opening centers and procurement operations have caused anxiety among farmers, especially in major cotton-producing regions like Guntur, Palnadu, and Kurnool districts.

A key issue remains the moisture content allowed in cotton for purchase. The central government's norms restrict moisture to a maximum of 12%, but due to Cyclone Montra's impact causing rains and increased moisture in cotton crops, the state seeks relaxation up to 18% with appropriate deductions to prevent crop damage losses and avoid distress sales to local traders at below Minimum Support Price rates.

The central government has responded positively to some of Andhra Pradesh's proposals, with implementation underway, and final decisions on remaining requests expected soon. Cotton farmers remain hopeful for timely solutions to these operational and quality issues to ensure fair price realization for their produce. In summary, the Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister's recent visit to Medikonduru and Parecherla villages highlighted the government's commitment to resolving cotton procurement hurdles, safeguarding farmers' interests through assured purchases, better operational efficiency procurement

Grand Celebration of Subrahmanya Shashti Kalyana Mahotsavam at Mopidevi Temple Draws Thousands of Devoteest

TPN Bureau | November 26

Mopidevi, Krishna District: The sacred and historic Mopidevi Sri Subrahmanyeswara Swamy Temple, revered across both Telugu states as a divine self-manifested shrine, came alive on Wednesday as thousands of devotees thronged the temple premises to participate in the grand Subrahmanya Shashti Kalyana Mahotsavam. Organized under the auspices of the Endowments Department, the celestial wedding of Lord Subrahmanya with Goddess Valli and Goddess Devasena was performed in a splendid, devotional atmosphere marked by traditional rituals and vibrant cultural fervor.

Avanigadda MLA and Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) Mandali Buddha Prasad attended the event as the chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, he expressed immense joy at



witnessing the divine Kalyanam and praised the Endowments Department for conducting the festival with great devotion and meticulous arrangements. On behalf of the department and the hereditary trustees of the Challapalli Estate temples the Yarl-agadda Zamindar family the MLA, along with Endowments Deputy Commissioner and Challapalli Estate Temples Executive Officer Dasari Srirama Vara Prasad Rao, ceremoniously presented silk garments (pattu vastralu) to the deities.

The event began in the early hours with spe-

cial pujas, homams, and veda parayanams performed by eminent priests. Chief priests Buddu Pavan Kumar Sharma and Buddu Satish Sharma, along with noted scholars and priests including Ganapati Brahmashri Kom-muri Phani Kumar Sharma and Nauduri Vishwanatha Subrahmanya Sharma, led the rituals amidst the chanting of sacred Vedic hymns.

The Kalyanam was conducted in full grandeur, symbolizing divine union and prosperity, while traditional musical instruments echoed through the temple sur-

roundings, enhancing the spiritual ambiance. Thousands of devotees from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana thronged Mopidevi to witness the auspicious occasion. The temple premises were beautifully decorated with flowers, lights, and traditional motifs, adding to the sanctity and joy of the celebration. Devotees expressed their happiness in being part of this spiritually uplifting event, offering prayers and seeking the blessings of Lord Subrahmanyeswara Swamy for peace and well-being.

Elaborate arrangements were made by the local administration to manage the heavy influx of devotees. Constituency Special Officer Penumudi Sai Babu, Tahsildar Muppurishetty Harinath, Temple Superintendent Achyutha Madhusudhan Rao, along with Avanigadda and Challapalli Circle Inspectors Yuvakumar

and Eshwar Rao, and Sub-Inspectors Pamarthi Gautham Kumar and K.Y. Das supervised the proceedings to ensure smooth conduct of the event. Police personnel, temple volunteers, and departmental staff coordinated efficiently to regulate queues, maintain law and order, and provide amenities for devotees.

The Mopidevi temple, one of the most significant Subrahmanya temples in South India, is believed to fulfill devotees' wishes, particularly those praying for progeny and family harmony. The annual Subrahmanya Shashti and Kalyana Mahotsavam hold immense religious significance, attracting pilgrims from far and wide. This year's celebrations, marked by disciplined management, rich rituals, and vibrant participation, reaffirmed Mopidevi's standing as a beacon of devotion and tradition in the Krishna region.

Assembly Estimates Committee Emphasizes Accurate Planning, Optimal Fund Utilization

TPN Bureau | November 26

Visakhapatnam: The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Estimates Committee, led by Chairman V. Jogeshwara Rao, stressed the importance of preparing accurate estimates and effectively utilizing funds provided by both the central and state governments to ensure successful implementation of development projects. The committee held a review meeting with district officials at the Visakhapatnam Collectorate on Wednesday. Committee members Eluri Sambasiva Rao, Nimmaka Jayakrishna, Maddipati Venkatraju, P. Surya Narayana Raju, and MLC Varudu Kalyani accompanied the chairman during the visit.

Officials presented de-

tailed reports on district development activities, expenditure patterns, and project progress for the financial years 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22. Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad and departmental officers briefed the committee on local conditions and ongoing projects.

Jogeshwara Rao noted that careful estimation during the planning stage prevents difficulties during project execution and ensures smooth workflows. He instructed officials to upload bills immediately after work completion to avoid delays. He further emphasized that only realistic, field-based estimates aligned with local needs can yield tangible outcomes. The chairman directed officials to ensure that welfare scheme benefits

reach eligible beneficiaries promptly and advised departments to obtain renewed permissions for incomplete buildings initiated under the NREGS scheme.

He also called for proposals to repair and hand over the Meghadri Gedda Reservoir to the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) for drinking water management. Committee member Eluri Sambasiva Rao suggested more effective implementation of the Post-Matric Scholarship scheme under Social Welfare and called for strict monitoring of the Babu Jagjivan Jyoti program to ensure 200 units of free power to SC beneficiaries.

He also advised studying the feasibility of "magic drains" for sani-



tation and ensuring clean drinking water. Maddipati Venkatapati Raju recommended involving ANMs and Asha workers in monthly pension distribution drives, while Jayakrishna urged faster disbursement of agricultural benefits and promotion of innovative schemes. MLC Varudu Kalyani raised concerns about recent power interruptions at KGH Hospital, to which the Collector clarified that underground power lines were accidentally damaged during con-

struction and later restored.

Collector Harendhira Prasad proposed that after necessary repairs, management of the Meghadri Gedda Reservoir be fully handed over to GVMC to ensure uninterrupted water supply. Deputy Secretary to the Assembly Rajkumar, Joint Collector K. Mayur Ashok, RDO Sudha Sagar, VMRDA Joint Commissioner Ramesh Babu, CE Vinay Kumar, GVMC ADC Varma, and other officials participated in the meeting.

MLA Paritala Sunitha urges farmers to avoid cultivating the same crop simultaneously



TPN Bureau | November 26

Raptadu (Anantapur): Raptadu MLA Paritala Sunitha has advised farmers to diversify their crop patterns instead of cultivating the same crop simultaneously, warning that the current practice often leads to financial losses due to a lack of remunerative prices. She emphasized that crop rotation and diversification would help farmers secure better returns and maintain soil health. Sunitha made these remarks during the "Raitanna - Meekosam" (For the Farmer, For You) program held at Mamillapalli village in Raptadu mandal on Tuesday.

Accompanied by agricultural department officials, she interacted with local farmers and inspected agricultural activities in the region. During her field visits, she inquired whether welfare schemes introduced by the government were reaching farmers effectively and distributed pam-

phlets sent by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu that detail recent measures for farmers' welfare and support.

Addressing the farmers, Sunitha explained that when large numbers of farmers grow the same crop in the same season, market glut often follows, causing a steep fall in prices and resulting in heavy losses. "Farmers should plan crop cultivation based on demand, soil fertility, and local climatic conditions," she said. "Only through diversification can we achieve both profitability and sustainability."

She instructed agricultural officers to conduct awareness programs to educate farmers about suitable crop rotation methods and modern cultivation practices. She also urged agricultural scientists to guide farmers on pest management, soil testing, and the appropriate usage of fertilizers and pesticides to improve yield quality and re-

duce costs. The MLA reiterated that the state government under Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu remains committed to improving farmers' welfare by providing timely support, technical expertise, and better market linkages. She expressed confidence that proper coordination between officials and farmers would help minimize losses and boost agricultural productivity in the region.

Agricultural Department Assistant Director Kishtayya, Agricultural Officer Madhuri, DCMs representatives, Market Yard Chairmen Nettem Venkatesh and Boyapati Sudhakar Chowdhary, programme convener Potulayya, and several former local leaders participated in the event. Officials assured the MLA that they would intensify field-level awareness drives and ensure farmers receive up-to-date information on best farming practices and available government schemes.

Abandoned Infant Under Government Care, ICDS Urges Parents or Relatives to Come Forward With Proof



TPN Bureau | November 26

Anantapur: District Women and Child Welfare Department's Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Project Director Aruna Kumari has appealed to the biological parents or blood relatives of a 60-day-old baby girl currently housed in the government-run Shishu Gruha (child care home) to come forward with valid proof of identity and relationship to reclaim the child. Addressing the media on Wednesday, the ICDS Project Director said the infant has been receiving care and medical supervision at the government facility since she was rescued two months ago.

The baby was reportedly abandoned near 7th Cross, Sainagar, Anantapur city. Upon receiving information, officials immediately took the

newborn to a hospital for examination and, following medical clearance, shifted her to the Shishu Gruha for continued care and protection. Aruna Kumari stated that the Shishu Gruha provides safe shelter, nutrition, and medical attention to abandoned or orphaned children under the supervision of the Women and Child Welfare Department.

She stressed that if any person claiming to be the child's parent or a close relative has valid documentary evidence such as birth proof, hospital discharge summary, or other verifiable records they may contact the ICDS office to initiate formal procedures for custody. She further explained that as per government child protection guidelines, if no legitimate claimant comes forward within 30 days, the child will be declared "le-

gally abandoned" in accordance with the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act.

Once this process is completed, the baby will be declared eligible for adoption through authorized government channels, ensuring she finds a suitable and secure family environment. The ICDS Project Director urged the public to spread awareness about the case so that the infant's family, if traceable, can reclaim her before the statutory deadline expires.

She reassured that all processes will be conducted transparently and under the jurisdiction of child welfare laws. For further information or to provide credible evidence regarding the child's identity, individuals are advised to contact the office of the ICDS Project Director, Anantapur District.

GVMC Approves "Annuity Payout Model" for Road Development in Visakhapatnam

TPN Bureau | November 26

Visakhapatnam: The Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) has approved a major infrastructure initiative to upgrade and maintain 88.35 kilometers of city roads under a new "Annuity Payout Model," aimed at ensuring quality, durability, and efficiency in urban road management. GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg announced that this is the first time such a model is being introduced in Visakhapatnam, marking a significant shift in the city's approach toward long-term infrastructure development and financial control.

According to the commissioner, the project has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 307 crores. The initiative is expected to bring uniformity in road construction standards, ensure timely completion of works, and maintain high-quality road conditions through continuous performance monitoring. Under this model, the selected contractor will be re-

sponsible not only for developing the roads but also for maintaining them for a specified period, with payments made by GVMC on an annual basis depending on performance and quality metrics.

New Model for Financial Efficiency

Commissioner Garg explained that adopting the "Annuity Payout" or "Hybrid Annuity Model" will help GVMC achieve both administrative efficiency and financial prudence. Unlike the existing system, which involves awarding numerous smaller contracts to different contractors, leading to fragmented execution and variable quality, the new model integrates development and maintenance into a single large-scale contract. This approach is expected to minimize administrative burden, reduce repetitive tendering, and ensure consistent accountability from a single contractor.

Garg emphasized that this model promotes cost control while safeguarding long-term quality. "Through this innova-



tive approach, GVMC will be able to ensure not only better quality of roads but also sustainable management of infrastructure assets. This will ultimately lead to economic benefits for the corporation through lifecycle cost savings," he said in an official statement.

Impact on City Infrastructure

The 88.35-kilometer project will cover major arterial and internal roads within the GVMC limits. Once implemented, residents are expected to experience smoother traffic flow, reduced travel times, and improved connectivity between

various zones of Visakhapatnam. The project design includes standardized road quality specifications, better drainage alignment, and integration of smart monitoring tools to assess the durability and performance of roads periodically.

GVMC officials noted that with Visakhapatnam rapidly expanding as both an industrial and administrative hub, urban infrastructure capacity needs to match the growing vehicular population and developmental pace. The Annuity Payout Model is expected to set a new benchmark for future urban road projects

across Andhra Pradesh municipalities.

Toward Sustainable Urban Growth

Beyond immediate road improvements, officials believe the model supports the city's broader goal of sustainable urban infrastructure through performance-based contracting. By linking payouts to measurable outcomes, GVMC aims to foster accountability, contractor commitment, and long-term quality assurance. Commissioner Garg stressed that every rupee spent on public works should yield tangible improvements in civic infrastructure.

"This model reinforces our commitment to transparency, efficiency, and public service. It is a step toward making Visakhapatnam's municipal governance more outcome-driven," he added. GVMC's adoption of the Annuity Payout Model underscores a decisive move toward modern, data-driven urban project management that prioritizes both fiscal discipline and citizen convenience.

Pakistan-Afghanistan Conflict Escalates After Cross-Border Strikes



The fragile peace between Pakistan and Afghanistan has collapsed into a near-war situation following what is believed to be Pakistan's first-ever aerial bombing of Afghanistan earlier this month. The drone strikes on Kabul and Paktia on October 9, coinciding with Taliban Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi's visit to Delhi, marked a dramatic escalation in tensions after decades of insurgency and state-sponsored militancy in the region. The cross-border attacks, allegedly targeting Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan

(TTP) camps, resulted in civilian casualties, including the deaths of members of a local cricket team in Urgan district. In retaliation, Afghanistan pulled out of a tri-nation cricket series and responded with multiple strikes on Pakistani border areas. The violence intensified soon after a 48-hour truce expired, with Pakistan claiming its actions were provoked by a TTP suicide bombing that killed 17 soldiers. Reports from Pakistan's Centre for Research and Security Studies show a 46% rise in violence this year, with the first three

quarters already surpassing last year's toll. Analysts attribute this surge to Pakistan's counterterrorism missteps and the resurgence of militant factions like the Islamic State of Khorasan (IS-K), which has expanded its activities across Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Observers allege that Pakistan's security establishment may be using IS-K as a proxy against Baloch and Pashtun leaders, such as Mehrang Baloch and Manzoor Pashteen, who lead peaceful rights movements. A Qatar-mediated cease-

fire on October 19, supported by Turkey, brought temporary relief, but tensions remain high. The agreement faced backlash in Afghanistan for referring to a "border," a term Kabul rejects. Afghan officials warned that if their Supreme Leader declared Pakistan an "invader" by religious decree, it would justify large-scale retaliation. Meanwhile, Pakistan's leadership continues its rhetoric of escalation, with Defence Minister Khwaja Asif accusing Kabul of aligning with India and Army Chief Field Marshal

Asim Munir issuing nuclear threats toward New Delhi. Experts believe Islamabad's strategy aims to draw the U.S. back into the region, seeking both strategic leverage and financial aid. As violence spirals, calls for peace from within Pakistan—such as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi's plea for a 'grand jirga'—go unheeded. For now, both nations appear trapped in a cycle of vengeance, with Pakistan's military determined to escalate, even at the cost of national stability.

The Long wait For A Resolution..!



The prolonged legal tussle over the Munambam land dispute has entered yet another complicated phase, following a recent order by the Kerala High Court that has added layers to an already tangled issue. Instead of providing finality, the judgment has further muddled the waters, leaving the matter open for continued legal scrutiny.

In its latest ruling, a Division Bench of the High Court declared that the disputed Munambam holding does not qualify as Waqf property. However, the court simultaneously refrained from annulling the previous actions taken by the Kerala Waqf Board concerning the same property, despite terming those actions as bad in law. This nuanced decision effectively transfers the responsibility for a conclusive resolution back to the Waqf Tribunal, which is already hearing related petitions on the issue.

The judgment, while significant, has not delivered the clarity many stakeholders had hoped for. By directing the matter back to the Tribunal, the court has reignited debates around jurisdiction, ownership rights, and the procedural correctness of the Waqf Board's earlier interventions. Legal experts note that this

move could prolong the dispute, as the Tribunal must now re-examine aspects that the High Court has left open-ended. The Munambam property, located in Ernakulam district, has long been the subject of contention between private claimants and the Waqf Board. Questions regarding its legal status and ownership have persisted for years, with both sides presenting competing claims of historical rights and religious endowments. The High Court's decision, observers say, highlights the complexities inherent in property cases involving Waqf land, where questions of faith, community interest, and statutory interpretation intersect. The ruling may also have wider implications for similar disputes across the State, where Waqf land holdings have frequently been challenged on grounds of title and management. For now, the case remains far from resolved. With the Waqf Tribunal tasked once again with reassessing the matter, the Munambam dispute appears destined to continue its long and winding journey through the corridors of justice — offering, at least for the moment, no clear end in sight.

Bengaluru Auto Fare Chaos: Permanent Fix Needed to End Passenger Woes



As Bengaluru grapples with mounting commuter frustration over autorickshaw fares, the government's ongoing fare verification drive, slated for completion by October 31, appears unrealistic and unfair — both to drivers struggling with delayed verifications and to passengers forced to pay arbitrary fares. The Transport Department had revised auto fares in August, fixing rates at ₹36 for the first two kilometres and ₹18 for every additional kilometre. However, compliance has been patchy at best. Many drivers continue to charge unregulated amounts, often without displaying fare charts or recalibrated meters. Passengers, left to negotiate or argue mid-ride, are bearing the brunt of administrative lapses. The verification process has been chaotic. Several drivers reported being turned away from verification centres or told to return after October 25, due to a manpower crunch in the Legal Metrology Department, whose staff

have been deputed for the Karnataka Social and Educational Survey. With poor coordination and communication, the recalibration exercise—meant to restore order—has instead deepened confusion and emboldened fare violations. Experts and commuter groups have urged the government to extend the deadline and, in the meantime, mandate that all autorickshaws display printed fare charts. This would protect commuters from overcharging and enhance transparency while the recalibration drive continues. Yet, the fare crisis extends beyond street-hailing autos. Ride aggregator platforms, despite adopting the revised fare structure in August, face growing criticism for exorbitant pricing and surge fares. Commuters routinely report fares 20–30% higher than government-fixed rates, with additional opaque charges. In some cases, cab rides through the same apps are cheaper than autos, prompting ques-

tions about fairness and oversight. Critics say that while authorities crack down on independent drivers, aggregators face little scrutiny. The government, they argue, must enforce uniform fare monitoring and curb profiteering practices under the guise of "digital convenience." Additionally, passenger safety remains a major concern. Authorities have been urged to launch a comprehensive verification drive to check driver credentials, permits, and vehicle documents—especially vital for single women and senior citizens who depend on autos for daily commutes. Ultimately, experts agree that fare tinkering and enforcement drives are only temporary fixes. The sustainable solution lies in strengthening Bengaluru's public transport system, ensuring that autorickshaws serve primarily as last-mile connectors, not as substitutes for the city's inadequate mass transit network.

Immigration and the Politics of Fear: From Border Control to Cultural Panic



At the United Nations General Assembly last month, U.S. President Donald Trump reignited global debate on immigration with a fiery attack on Europe's open-border policies. Declaring that "it's time to end the failed experiment of open borders," Trump warned European leaders that their nations were "going to hell" — a statement that laid bare his intent to export his brand of anti-immigrant populism to the very continent his Scottish-born mother once left behind. In the United Kingdom, immigration has long been a politically charged issue. Historical flashpoints such as Enoch Powell's infamous 'Rivers of Blood' speech in 1968, the Na-

tional Front's activism during the 1970s, and the Brexit-era 'Take Back Control' rhetoric of the mid-2010s have all shaped the country's relationship with migration. What makes the current moment distinct, however, is a shift in focus — from condemning illegal or irregular immigration to denouncing legal migration itself. The evolution of the discourse reflects a deeper nativist anxiety about identity, culture, and belonging. Where earlier debates centered on the state's capacity to manage and integrate migrants, today's narratives increasingly hinge on protecting "heritage" and "way of life." These concerns are often cloaked in

the language of integration and national security, yet they resonate most strongly with populist movements seeking to mobilize fear of demographic and cultural change. The growing prominence of far-right demonstrations — such as the recent "Unite the Kingdom" march led by English Defence League founder Tommy Robinson in London — underscores how mainstream the politics of exclusion has become. Images from the rally, including that of a demonstrator perched defiantly atop the South Bank lion near Westminster Bridge, have come to symbolize the intersection of nationalism and spectacle in the U.K.'s po-

litical landscape. Analysts warn that the shift from policy-based migration debates to identity-based panic risks normalizing xenophobia in public discourse. What was once a question of economic management has morphed into a cultural battlefield, where even legal immigrants find themselves under suspicion. As global migration continues amid conflict, inequality, and climate change, the U.K. and much of the West face a defining question: whether to be guided by fear and exclusion, or by inclusion and shared humanity — a choice that will shape not just immigration policy, but the moral fabric of nations.

Was able to serve as head of govt because of our Constitution: PM on Constitution Day

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

On Constitution Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reflected on the transformative power of India's Constitution, emphasizing that it enabled someone from a humble background like him to serve as head of government both in Gujarat and at the Centre. In a letter to citizens on November 26, Modi paid tribute to the framers of the Constitution, including Dr B.R. Ambedkar, Dr Rajendra Prasad, and other distinguished members of the Constituent Assembly.

Modi recounted personal moments of reverence, including bowing before the Constitution upon entering Parliament in 2014 and the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan in 2019. "This Constitution has given several others, like me, the power to dream and the strength to work towards it," he said. He also remembered the marking of Constitution Day in 2015, a tradition initiated by the NDA government to honour the nation's foundational document.

The Prime Minister highlighted the 75th Constitution Day as coinciding with the 150th birth anniversaries of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Bhagwan Birsa Munda, recognizing Patel's role in India's political unification and his guidance on constitutional matters in Jammu & Kashmir. Modi also commemorated the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Ji, underscoring the Constitution's role in safeguarding rights for women and marginalised communities.



Emphasizing the importance of civic responsibility, Modi drew attention to Fundamental Duties under Article 51A, urging citizens to perform their duties conscientiously to ensure social and economic progress. He stressed that a duty well performed creates corresponding rights, quoting Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy on civic responsibility.

Modi concluded by urging citizens to actively participate in the democratic process. "Every action of ours should strengthen the Constitution. Our Constitution has given us the right to vote, and it is our duty never to miss the opportunity to vote in national, state, and local elections," he said, linking active participation to India's journey toward becoming a Viksit Bharat.

This year's Constitution Day serves as a reminder of India's democratic values, citizen responsibilities, and the enduring relevance of the Constitution in shaping the nation's future.

Karnataka Congress Leadership Tussle to Be Resolved by High Command



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Amid growing speculation over a potential change in leadership in Karnataka, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge

on Wednesday said the issue will be resolved after discussions with senior leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. The remarks come as the Congress government in Karnataka completes the midterm of its five-year tenure on November 20, reigniting talk of a Chief Minister change.

Siddaramaiah has maintained that the decision rests with the top leadership, stating, "Ultimately, the high command has to make the decision. We will abide by what the high command says." He welcomed the freedom of legislators to voice their opinions but stressed that the final call will come from the party leadership.

Shivakumar, who also serves as Karnataka Congress chief, refrained from public comments, citing a "secret deal" among five to six senior party members. "I have not asked to make

me the CM. It is a secret deal between five and six of us. I believe in my conscience. We should work with our conscience," he said, emphasizing party unity over personal ambitions.

He also expressed support for Siddaramaiah continuing to present the upcoming state budget and highlighted the need for cohesive work ahead of the 2028 Assembly elections and 2029 Lok Sabha polls. Shivakumar side-stepped questions about the alleged post-poll power-sharing arrangement, noting that media reports had already addressed the matter.

The Congress leadership's intervention is now widely expected to end the uncertainty, ensuring party unity as Karnataka prepares for the second half of the government's tenure. The resolution by the high command will likely shape the state party's strategy for upcoming elections and internal cohesion

Ambedkar, Constitution subjected to 'ferocious assault' by RSS: Congress

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Congress on Tuesday (November 25, 2025) claimed that B.R. Ambedkar and the Indian Constitution have faced a "ferocious assault" from the RSS, a trend that, according to the party, has continued since the drafting of the Constitution 76 years ago.

Congress general secretary and in-charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh, recalled Ambedkar's role in moving the resolution for the formal adoption of the draft Constitution in the Constituent Assembly, emphasizing the significance of Ambedkar's acknowledgment of the Congress party's contribution. In his closing speech before moving the resolution, Ambedkar had praised the Congress for its role in shaping India's foundational legal document, Ramesh noted.

Ramesh underscored that while the Constitution was meticulously drafted to ensure equality, justice, and democratic governance, it immediately faced challenges from ideological groups like the RSS, which opposed several provisions and principles. "The assault on Ambedkar and the Constitution was fierce then, and unfortunately, the attempts to undermine the values enshrined in the Constitution continue today," he said.

The Congress highlighted that Ambedkar's vision for India was rooted in social justice, equality, and the protection of fundamental rights, which remain cornerstones of India's democracy. The party called on citizens and political leaders to remain vigilant and safeguard the Constitution against efforts to distort or dilute its core values.



This statement comes amid ongoing political debates about constitutional interpretation and the role of institutions in preserving democratic norms. Ramesh emphasized that revisiting Ambedkar's speeches and contributions is crucial to understanding the intent behind the Constitution and defending it against attempts to politicize or undermine it.

By drawing attention to Ambedkar's legacy, the Congress seeks to reinforce its commitment to constitutional values and democratic principles, stressing that the protection of these principles is essential for the nation's unity, equality, and justice.

BJP Flags "Serious Irregularities" in Bengal Voter Roll Revision



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A BJP delegation met top Election Commission officials in New Delhi on Wednesday, alleging widespread irregularities in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal. The delegation included state party chief Samik Bhattacharya, IT cell head Amit Malviya, MPs Khagen Murmu and Jagannath Sarkar, and national election coordinator Om Pathak.

The BJP accused the state administration of enabling "large-scale manipulation" of voter rolls. Amit Malviya alleged that Trinamool Congress (TMC) workers were pressuring Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and attempting to take control of enumeration forms. He further claimed that the

mandatory ₹18,000 honorarium for BLOs had not been released, and that the state government had failed to appoint Data Entry Operators, crippling the revision process.

Raising concerns about inaccuracies in the first phase of SIR, the delegation said projections indicated 88 lakh deceased voters since 2002, yet many of these names remained on the rolls. The BJP also flagged 22 lakh people who migrated out of the state but were still listed as ordinary residents and alleged duplication across entries. The party further claimed infiltration from Bangladesh and the presence of non-citizens on voter lists.

The delegation submitted a set of recommendations, including

AI-based verification tools, access to death registry data, expedited recruitment of Data Entry Operators, deployment of independent observers, and clearer definitions of "ordinary residents." They also urged strengthening the independence of the CEO's office from the state home department.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission issued a letter to the Kolkata Police Commissioner regarding a security breach at the CEO's office during a BLO protest. It called the existing security arrangements "inadequate" and ordered an immediate upgrade, including protection for officials at the office, their residences, and during transit. An action taken report has been sought within 48 hours.

Election Commission to Meet Trinamool Delegation Amid SIR Protests



TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

The Election Commission of India (ECI) will meet a ten-member delegation of the All India Trinamool Congress (AITMC) on November 28 to discuss ongoing protests over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in nine states and three Union Territories. The meeting will take place at Nirvachan Sadan, New Delhi, at 11:00 AM, following the party's request for consultation, according to a communication from the EC.

The delegation will include senior leaders Derek O'Brien, Kalyan Banerjee, Mahua Moitra, Saket Gokhale, and other representatives. This development follows a letter by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar,

raising concerns about "two disturbing yet urgent developments" linked to election preparations in the state and urging immediate intervention.

On Tuesday, Banerjee criticized the BJP over the SIR exercise in West Bengal, asserting that no voter can be removed unfairly. She questioned the EC's decision to conduct SIR in states like Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, suggesting inconsistency in the exercise. Banerjee also expressed solidarity with Bangladesh, emphasizing shared cultural and linguistic ties.

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari, wrote to the CEC alleging violations of neutrality and misuse of police during the electoral roll revision. He cited an event organized

under the West Bengal Police Welfare Committee in Digha, Purba Medinipur, which he claimed was hijacked for political purposes by TMC leaders and serving police officers, breaching impartiality norms.

The final voter list is scheduled for February 7, 2026, after completing the first phase of SIR in Bihar ahead of its Assembly elections. The upcoming meeting between the EC and Trinamool leaders is expected to address grievances and clarify procedural concerns, as tensions rise over voter verification and alleged irregularities in the ongoing SIR exercise.

This meeting is being closely watched as a key step in ensuring transparency and neutrality ahead of state and national elections.

Where Is Imran Khan?

Sisters Ask To Meet Jailed Ex-Pak PM Amid Death Rumours



TPN Correspondent | Abuja, Nigeria

Tensions escalated outside Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail this week after supporters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the sisters of former Prime Minister Imran Khan gathered to demand a meeting with him. Khan, imprisoned since 2023 in multiple cases, has reportedly not been allowed to meet his family for more than three weeks.

According to PTL, the peaceful gathering turned violent when police personnel allegedly "pounced on" Khan's sisters and supporters. The party condemned what it called a "brutal assault" and demanded an impartial investigation into the incident.

In a strongly worded letter to Punjab police chief Usman Anwar, Khan's sister Noreen Niazi described the attack as "brutal, orchestrated, and unprovoked." She stated that the demonstrators neither blocked roads nor disrupted public order.

She alleged that authorities suddenly switched off the streetlights, plunging the area into darkness before police launched the assault. "At the age of 71, I was seized by my hair, thrown

violently to the ground, and dragged across the road," Noreen wrote, adding that other women were slapped and pulled by their clothes.

The sisters accused Punjab Police of a continued pattern of excessive force against peaceful protesters over the past three years. They urged the Inspector General of Police to initiate proceedings against those responsible.

Meanwhile, concerns over Imran Khan's condition continue to grow. PTI claims he is being kept in complete isolation and solitary confinement, with access to essential items, books, and even his legal team reportedly restricted. Lawyer Khalid Yousaf Chaudry criticized the situation, saying, "The law of the jungle prevails here."

Even Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi was allegedly denied permission to meet the former PM on seven consecutive attempts, with Khan asserting that jail authorities are under the control of an army officer.

The situation has intensified calls for transparency surrounding Khan's imprisonment and treatment.

Authorities must 'strengthen' Russian identity in Ukraine: Putin



TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv/Europe

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a new policy document directing authorities to significantly expand the number of people who identify as Russian and speak the Russian language in the Ukrainian territories Moscow has occupied since its 2022 invasion. The decree, titled "Strategy of Russia's National Policy to 2036," calls for ensuring that 95% of the country's population identifies as Russian by the end of the policy period.

The document, published Tuesday, underscores Moscow's long-standing narrative that parts of Ukraine are historically Russian and must be reintegrated culturally and politically. It states that securing control over eastern and southern regions has "created conditions for restoring the unity of the historical territories of the Russian state."

Russia annexed Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia in 2022, though its forces do not hold full military control in any of them. The strategy outlines plans to "entrench the use of the Russian language," strengthen Russian civic identity,

and counter what it calls attempts by "unfriendly foreign states" to destabilise inter-ethnic relations.

Putin has repeatedly questioned the legitimacy of Ukraine's national identity, arguing that Russian-speakers in the east faced discrimination—claims Kyiv firmly denies. Ukrainian has been the sole state language since 1991, and surveys show that since the invasion, public use of Russian has declined sharply.

The Kremlin's push for cultural assimilation comes as diplomatic efforts intensify. On Tuesday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Kyiv was ready to pursue a U.S.-backed peace plan, though officials fear pressure to accept concessions favoring Moscow.

Putin launched the invasion in February 2022 with the declared aims of "demilitarising and denazifying" Ukraine. More than three years into the conflict—the deadliest in Europe since World War II—Russia's new identity policy signals yet another attempt to reshape the cultural landscape of the occupied regions.

Team Trump Pushes 'Project Firewall' Amid Intensifying H-1B Debate

TPN Bureau | Washington

The Donald Trump administration has announced a fresh crack-down on H-1B visa misuse, unveiling "Project Firewall"—a federal initiative aimed at ensuring American employers prioritize qualified U.S. workers over foreign talent. The move arrives amid escalating political debate over the future of skilled immigration in the United States.

The US Department of Labor (DOL) revealed that the project will scrutinize H-1B hiring practices and strengthen oversight to protect the rights, wages, and job opportunities of highly skilled American workers. The initiative is a coordinated effort with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, and USCIS, enabling broad-based information-sharing



and enforcement action.

According to the DOL, Project Firewall will hold employers accountable for discriminatory practices and misuse of the H-1B program. "Employers must prioritise qualified Americans when

hiring," the department said, emphasizing that enforcement measures will be taken against violators.

US Labor Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer added that under President Trump's leadership, the administration will continue to

"end bad practices" and safeguard American workers' interests.

The initiative also coincides with growing friction within Trump's political base. While the President maintains support for skilled immigration, segments of his MAGA support-

ers oppose expansion of the H-1B program. The White House, however, has reiterated Trump's nuanced position.

Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt clarified that Trump does not support American workers being replaced

by foreign employees. She said his stance has been "mischaracterised," explaining that the President supports allowing skilled immigrants—particularly those contributing to advanced manufacturing sectors like batteries, chips, and defense technology—to help establish key industries in the U.S.

Leavitt stressed that Trump expects foreign companies investing in the U.S. to "hire American workers" in the long run. The administration argues that its tariff strategy and trade policies have already attracted trillions in investments, aimed at revitalizing American manufacturing.

With Project Firewall set to intensify federal scrutiny, U.S. companies may soon face tougher compliance measures as the H-1B debate gains renewed political urgency.

Thailand Says Myanmar's Upcoming Election "Not Free or Credible"

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Thailand's Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuangketkeow has stated that Myanmar's election, scheduled to begin next month, cannot be considered free, fair, or credible. His remarks, made in Bangkok on Wednesday, sharply underline growing regional concern over Myanmar's political direction under military rule.

"We want the election to be free and credible, but it's not going to be the case—we know that," Sihasak said. He added that Thailand may not be in a position to recognise the election results if conditions remain unchanged. The minister also renewed calls for the release of detained democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi, whose imprisonment remains a central point of contention for Myanmar's pro-democracy movement and the international



community.

Myanmar's military seized power from Suu Kyi's elected government in a February 2021 coup, triggering

widespread unrest and a prolonged civil conflict. Thousands have been killed or displaced as resistance groups continue to bat-

tle the junta across multiple regions. Rights organisations have repeatedly accused the military of severe violations, in-

cluding arbitrary detentions, suppression of dissent, and restrictions on fundamental freedoms.

With the junta press-

ing ahead with elections despite the ongoing conflict, critics argue that the process lacks legitimacy. Key opposition figures remain in detention or political exile, and large portions of the country are outside the military's administrative control, raising further doubts about the feasibility and fairness of the planned vote.

Thailand, sharing a long border and complex ties with Myanmar, has been under pressure to take a firmer stance. Sihasak's comments mark one of the strongest positions taken by a neighbouring state so far.

As Myanmar moves toward an election that many believe will only cement military dominance, regional governments and international observers continue to question whether any meaningful democratic process can take place under such conditions.

Mexico Passes Tough Anti-Extortion Bill With Sentences Up to 42 Years



TPN Correspondent | Pakistan

Mexico's lower house of Congress has approved a sweeping new bill aimed at curbing the country's rapidly rising extortion crisis, introducing prison sentences of up to 42 years for those convicted. Lawmakers

passed the legislation on Tuesday, marking one of the most stringent legal measures yet in President Claudia Sheinbaum's security agenda.

Extortion has surged to record levels in Mexico, increasing 7% in the first six months of 2025 and leaving 5,887

registered victims during that period alone. Criminal groups—ranging from large cartels to smaller local gangs—have increasingly relied on extortion as a primary revenue source, targeting businesses, transport operators, farmers, local vendors, and even

ordinary households.

The newly approved bill seeks to modernise investigative tools, strengthen police coordination, and introduce harsher penalties for individuals and organised groups involved in extortion networks. It also emphasizes preventive

mechanisms to protect victims who often remain silent due to fear of retaliation.

Lawmakers said the measure was urgently needed to counter the growing violence associated with extortion schemes, which often include threats, kidnappings, arson, and

murders. Many small businesses across Mexico have shut down in recent years after failing to meet criminal demands for "protection payments."

The bill complements ongoing security operations launched under Sheinbaum's administration, which has pledged to confront organised crime while improving civilian protection. Human rights advocates, however, have urged the government to ensure the law is not misused against vulnerable populations or informal workers.

Mexico continues to uncover evidence of expanding criminal activity, including mass graves and cartel-linked violence, such as the recent discovery of 32 bodies and nine human heads in secret graves in the south.

The Senate is expected to take up the anti-extortion bill next. If fully approved, it would mark one of the harshest legal frameworks against extortion in Latin America.

Zomato Set to Gain Bigger Nifty Share by 2030

Zomato is poised to strengthen its presence in India's Nifty 50 index as new-age digital companies are expected to dominate the market by 2030, according to market analyst Hiren VedVed highlighted that among the 50 companies currently in the index, only three -Trent, Bajaj Finance, and Zomato- are delivering profit growth exceeding 18 signaling strong fundamentals in a competitive market.

The growth trajectory of Zomato reflects a broader trend of digital and technology-driven companies gaining prominence in India's financial markets. Analysts believe that as consumer behavior increasingly shifts toward online platforms for food delivery, e-commerce, and digital services, companies like Zomato are well-positioned to capitalize on this transformation.

"Zomato's consistent revenue growth, expanding customer



base, and innovation in delivery logistics

make it a strong contender for an increased

weighting in the Nifty index over the next

five years," Ved noted. He added that new-age

companies with robust digital strategies are expected to gradually replace traditional businesses in the index as the economy evolves.

Financial experts also point out that Zomato's ability to maintain high profit margins amid rising operational costs and intense competition sets it apart from many peers. This trend underscores the growing influence of digital-first companies in shaping India's equity market landscape.

With the Nifty 50 representing India's top-performing companies, an increased share for Zomato would not only reflect investor confidence but also mark a significant milestone for digital enterprises in India's stock market. Analysts expect that by 2030, several digital companies, led by Zomato, could emerge as dominant players, reshaping the composition of India's key stock indices.

Rupee Inches Up 2 Paise to 88.58 Against Dollar



Mumbai: The Indian rupee closed 2 paise higher at 88.58 against the U.S. dollar on Wednesday, supported by buying momentum in domestic equities and softer global crude oil prices.

Forex traders noted that

despite these domestic positives, gains were limited due to a firm U.S. dollar and continued foreign capital outflows. The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies,

was trading 0.18% higher at 99.63.

Market participants also cited cautious investor sentiment ahead of developments on the proposed India-U.S. trade deal, which has been closely monitored

by businesses and foreign investors alike.

"While the rupee saw modest gains, broader global factors and the strength of the U.S. dollar kept any sharp appreciation in check," said a senior forex

dealer.

Analysts expect the rupee to remain sensitive to both domestic equity trends and international cues, including crude oil prices, dollar movement, and foreign fund flows, in the near term.

Govt Panel Plans New SEZ Norms to Boost Domestic Sales



New Delhi: A government panel is working on revised norms for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to help exporters tap into the domestic

market amid rising challenges in overseas trade. The panel includes officials from the Commerce and Industry Ministry, NITI Aayog,

and representatives from the export sector, according to sources familiar with the matter.

The move comes in response to growing con-

cerns from SEZ units, particularly those entirely reliant on the US market, which have faced sudden tariff pressures making exports

uncompetitive. Several units have reportedly requested the Commerce Ministry to de-notify their SEZ status, though many exporters have so far continued operations despite incurring losses, hoping to maintain their US market presence.

SEZs in India benefit from tax incentives such as duty-free imports and domestic procurement advantages. Official data for FY25 indicates that exports from India's 276 SEZ units totaled \$172 billion, while domestic sales accounted for only 2% of production. The limited domestic engagement has raised concerns about underutilization of SEZ potential, especially when compared with China's SEZs, which have been instrumental in transforming manufacturing in that country.

In addition to market

access issues, SEZs are also facing challenges with low investments in research and development (R&D), which experts say is crucial for innovation and competitiveness. The revised norms under discussion aim to create greater flexibility for SEZ units, enabling them to sell more products domestically without losing SEZ benefits, and encouraging investment in R&D to strengthen the sector.

Officials emphasized that the policy changes are intended to support exporters in diversifying markets, reducing dependency on a single country, and enhancing overall manufacturing competitiveness. The panel is expected to finalize recommendations in the coming months, potentially reshaping the operational framework of SEZs in India.

Record IPO Fundraising, Mixed Returns in 2025



The Indian IPO market is witnessing an unprecedented surge in 2025, with companies raising record amounts through public listings. So far this year, more than 90 firms have debuted on stock exchanges, collectively generating substantial capital from investors, signaling strong corporate confidence and investor interest.

Despite this fundraising boom, market performance for many newly listed companies has been uneven. Of the 90-plus IPOs, 42 are currently trading below their listing price, highlighting a striking contrast between record fundraising and post-listing returns. Analysts say this reflects the growing complexity of market dynamics, where investor enthusiasm for new listings does not always translate into sustained share price growth.

"While the capital raised is impressive, the fact that nearly half of the IPOs are underperforming underscores the need for investors to evaluate fundamentals carefully," said market strategist Anil Mehra. Factors such as sector-specific challenges, macroeconomic uncertainties, and company valuation gaps are contributing to this mixed

performance.

The market's strong fundraising trend is fueled by a combination of pent-up liquidity, robust institutional interest, and favorable regulatory frameworks. Notably, sectors like technology, fintech, and renewable energy have attracted significant attention, with large subscription numbers driving oversubscribed listings. However, post-listing corrections in several high-profile IPOs have tempered investor optimism.

Experts caution that while 2025 marks a record year for IPO proceeds, retail and institutional investors must remain cautious and focus on long-term value rather than short-term gains. The paradox of record fundraising alongside mixed returns highlights the evolving nature of India's equity markets and signals a more discerning approach to IPO investment moving forward.

As the year progresses, market watchers will closely monitor whether these trends persist and how upcoming listings perform in an environment balancing record capital raising with selective stock performance.

Tata Projects, ASI Global Join Hands for Aircraft Maintenance Facilities



Tata Projects Ltd (TPL) and ASI Global have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly design and construct aircraft maintenance facilities in India, positioning themselves as integrated solution providers for hangar and MRO infrastructure.

The alliance brings together Tata Projects' engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) expertise with ASI Global's global experience in aircraft hangar design and fabrication. Together, the companies aim to cater to growing demand from commercial airlines, third-party MRO operators, business aircraft operators, and the defence sector.

Under the MoU, Tata Projects and ASI Global will jointly identify and pursue opportunities across India for the development of hangars and related maintenance infrastructure. The partnership is expected to streamline project execution and

provide end-to-end solutions for aviation clients, from design and engineering to construction.

Industry experts note that India's aviation sector is witnessing increased demand for modern maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) facilities, driven by the expansion of commercial airlines and rising defence requirements. The collaboration between Tata Projects and ASI Global is seen as a timely move to strengthen domestic capabilities and reduce reliance on foreign infrastructure providers.

The MoU reflects a strategic effort to enhance India's aerospace infrastructure, supporting both civil and defence aviation growth. With the partnership in place, the companies are set to play a key role in shaping the country's MRO ecosystem while leveraging their combined technical and operational expertise.



Redditor Wins PS5 Slim With Rs 20 Munch Bar



In a heartwarming story of luck and nostalgia, a Reddit user from India has won a PS5 Slim after purchasing a Rs 20 Munch chocolate bar at a local supermarket. The story, shared on the r/ps5india subreddit, quickly went viral.

The winner recounted that while visiting a supermarket with a friend, they picked up a Munch bar for nostalgic reasons. “I saw that it had a chance to win PlayStation offer. Just randomly went to the website and typed in the unique code and forgot about it,” the user wrote.

Three days later, the user received a notification confirming their win. Initially skeptical, they feared it might be a scam. However, when the delivery ID arrived, excitement set in. “I didn’t believe it and thought it was a scam. Then the delivery ID came and I was ecstatic,” the Redditor shared.

Coming from a middle-class background, the winner revealed that owning a PlayStation had always been a dream. The unexpected fortune left

them torn between selling the console to cover urgent expenses or keeping it. Ultimately, they chose to retain the PS5 Slim and plan to subscribe to PS Plus, taking advantage of the ongoing Black Friday sale.

The post highlights not only the thrill of unexpected luck but also the joy of fulfilling a long-held dream. The winner’s story has resonated with Reddit users, many of whom congratulated them on the “once-in-a-lifetime” chance and shared their own nostalgic gaming memories.

With the PlayStation 5’s popularity soaring worldwide and Black Friday sales reducing its price, this story serves as a reminder that sometimes, even a Rs 20 chocolate bar can lead to life-changing rewards. The Redditor now looks forward to exploring the console and making the most of their digital gaming adventure.

The viral post has inspired many, reaffirming that small gestures and random luck can occasionally turn dreams into reality.

NASA Spots Mysterious 80cm Rock on Mars



NASA’s rover Perseverance has discovered an unusual 80-centimeter rock in the Ver-nodden area of Mars’ Jezero Crater, sparking excitement among scientists. The rock, named “Phippsaksla,” stood out due to its size and structured appearance compared to surrounding stones.

Images captured by Perseverance’s Left Mastcam-Z camera on September 19, 2025, show Phippsaksla both up close and from a distance, revealing details that prompted the team to investigate further.

To analyze its composition, the rover used its SuperCam instrument, which fires laser pulses at targets and examines the reflected light. Preliminary findings indicate that the rock contains iron and nickel, elements uncommon in typical Martian geology but often found in asteroids, suggesting that the rock may have formed elsewhere in the solar system.

“This could be a meteorite,” NASA scientists noted, though further study is required to confirm its origin and how long it has been on the Martian surface.

Phippsaksla joins a growing

list of metal-rich rocks identified on Mars by previous missions. The Curiosity rover documented several iron-nickel meteorites, including the one-meter-wide “Lebanon” in 2014 and “Cacao” in 2023. Earlier rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, also recorded similar findings, offering valuable insights into materials that have traveled across the solar system to reach Mars.

Each metallic discovery enhances understanding of the diverse composition of objects impacting Mars, helping scientists piece together the planet’s history and its interactions with space debris.

For Perseverance, Phippsaksla represents a new chapter in exploring extraterrestrial meteorites. The research team will continue analyzing data to determine its precise origin, composition, and the story it tells about Mars’ cosmic neighborhood.

This discovery highlights how even a single rock can provide profound insights, reinforcing the importance of ongoing robotic exploration in expanding humanity’s knowledge of the solar system.

US McDonald’s Honours Indian Employee for 40 Years of Service

A McDonald’s restaurant in Massachusetts celebrated an inspiring milestone, honoring Balbir Singh, an Indian-origin employee, for 40 years of dedicated service with a \$40,000 reward. The recognition included a special dinner organized by the restaurant to mark his long and exemplary career.

Balbir, also known as Pargan Singh, began his journey at the McDonald’s in Saugus alongside his father, performing tasks such as cleaning tables, picking up trash, and assisting in the kitchen. Over the years, he mastered every aspect of the restaurant’s operations. Within a few months of joining, his dedication earned him a promotion to swing manager, a role he excelled in for decades.

The reward of \$40,000, equivalent to approximately Rs 35.5 lakh, was presented as a token of appreciation for his loyalty, hard



work, and commitment, symbolizing the familial culture McDonald’s fosters among its staff. The restaurant described Balbir’s journey as an inspiration to both colleagues and customers, highlighting how consistent effort, perseverance, and dedication can lead to remarkable achievements.

Balbir’s story is a re-

mind-er that McDonald’s is not just about burgers and fries but also about recognizing and valuing employee contributions. From his humble beginnings in entry-level tasks to becoming a key member of the management team, his career reflects the opportunities the fast-food giant provides for growth, skill development, and long-term stability.

Restaurant management praised Balbir for embodying the values of hard work, reliability, and commitment, noting that his tenure strengthened both operations and team morale. The celebration also included colleagues and community members, acknowledging the positive impact of his decades-long service.

Balbir Singh’s journey at McDonald’s underscores a timeless message: dedication and loyalty are invaluable, and sustained excellence is always recognized, leaving a lasting legacy for both employees and the organization.

Ancient Gold, Silver Coins Unearthed in Polish Forest

Archaeologists have made a remarkable discovery in northeastern Poland’s Knyszynska Forest Landscape Park, unearthing 69 ancient coins, including one gold and 68 silver pieces, dating back to the 16th–17th centuries.

The excavation, led by archaeologist Hubert Lepionka, highlights the region’s historical significance as a hub of trade. During this period, large quantities of timber and forest products, including wood, tar, honey, and iron, were exported to Dutch merchants, primarily for shipbuilding. The coins were likely buried along these trade routes, possibly hidden for safekeeping during times of war or instability, and never retrieved.

Among the findings, the latest coin dates to 1634, while the gold coin is a Dutch ducat from 1633. The silver coins include small Polish and Swedish denominations such as poltorak, trojak, and szostak, reflecting active trade between different regions and currencies. This combination of coins underscores the cross-cultural economic interactions in Europe during the



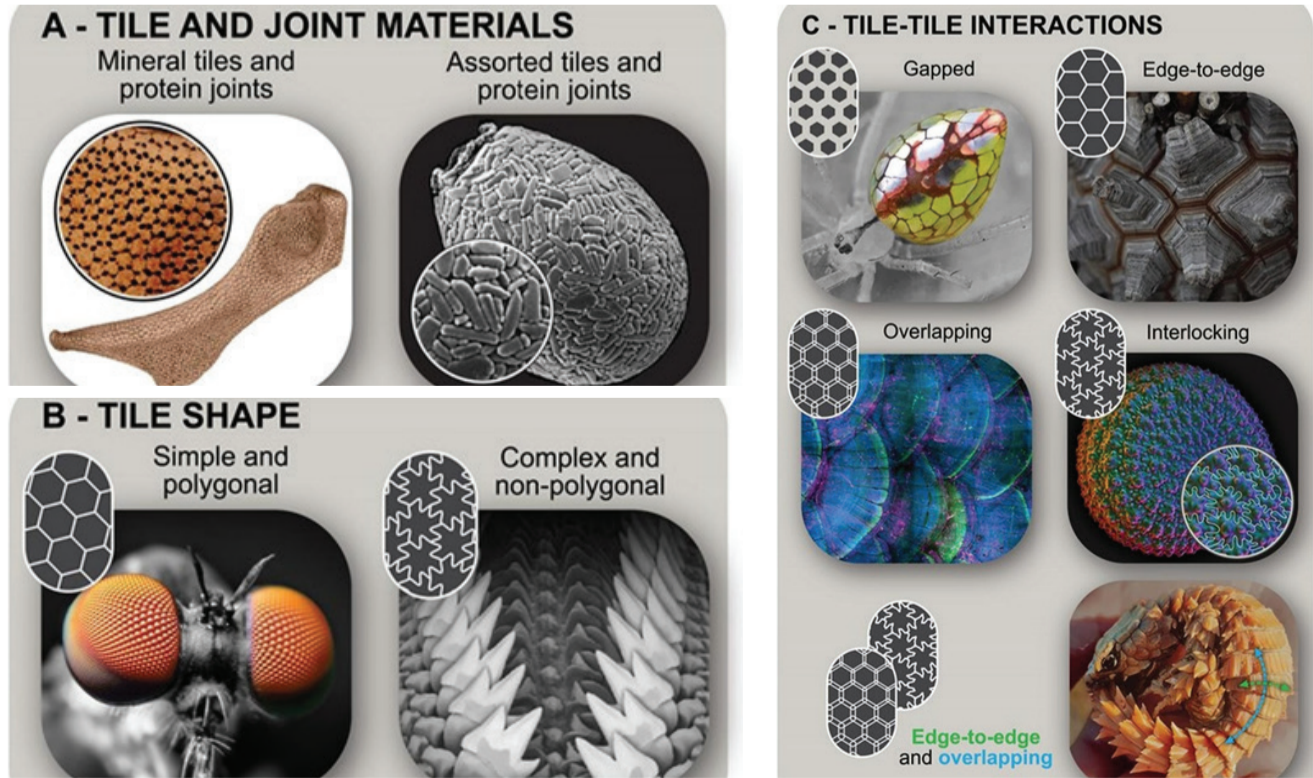
certain times.

Next, scientists plan to clean the coins and examine their dates and markings, alongside analysing soil and ash layers to understand the timing and circumstances of the burial. Additional metal artifacts found nearby will help reconstruct activities in the area during the 17th century.

This find emphasizes the historical connection between Poland’s forests and European trade networks, offering a tangible link to the past. As research progresses, the coins are expected to provide further insights into economic, social, and cultural life in early modern Europe, enriching our understanding of regional and international commerce.

The discovery has captivated historians and archaeologists, serving as a reminder of the hidden treasures that continue to lie beneath Europe’s historic landscapes.

New Study Shows Tiled Patterns Are Common in Nature



A recent scientific study has revealed that tiled or repeating patterns, long admired in nature, are far more widespread across life on Earth than previously recognized. These patterns, where surfaces are divided into repeated units, appear in organisms ranging from plants and animals to fungi.

Researchers have focused on patterns known as “cellular foams,” commonly found in bone, wood, and plant tissues, where thin walls enclose numerous small chambers. These structures are lightweight yet strong, providing rigidity without adding excess mass—an efficient design nature has repeatedly used.

The study, described in the weekly Science for All newsletter, emphasizes that tiling patterns are not limited to microscopic structures. They are observed in scales, shells, leaves, and even insect wings, showing that evolution often converges on modular designs to optimize strength, flexibility, and efficiency.

Scientists used a new atlas of tiling patterns, classifying them across species and materials. The classification highlights variables such as shape, orientation, connectivity, and symmetry of tiles, helping biologists understand how these structures form and function.

Beyond biology, these insights have implications for engineering and design, inspiring lightweight and resilient materials for architecture, robotics, and aerospace. By studying natural tiling, researchers hope to replicate nature’s solutions to balance strength, weight, and adaptability.

The findings underscore that tiling is a universal strategy employed across diverse life forms, from the microscopic to the macroscopic. Whether in bones that support a giraffe’s neck, honeycombs that house bees, or leaves that capture sunlight efficiently, tiling demonstrates how repeated modular units can achieve structural excellence and efficiency.

This new atlas and classification of tiled structures provide a framework for future studies, bridging biology, physics, and design, and showing that some of nature’s most elegant patterns are both functional and beautiful.

Sumit Nagal Advances in Australian Open Wild Card Play-Off

India's top singles player Sumit Nagal made a winning start at the Australian Open Asia-Pacific Wildcard Play-off, progressing to the quarter-finals after a resilient comeback against China's Minghui Zhang on Tuesday. The sixth-seeded Nagal lost the first set 2-6 but bounced back to dominate the next two sets 6-0, 6-2, showcasing his experience and mental toughness on the court.

The tournament, held at the Sichuan International Tennis Centre in Chengdu from November 24-29, offers wild card entries into the 2026 Australian Open main draw for the men's and women's singles champions, making it a crucial stepping stone for aspiring players in the Asia-Pacific region.

Nagal's path to the quarter-finals had faced hurdles even before the tournament began. His travel plans were delayed due to visa uncertainties, with his initial application to enter China being rejected. The Indian tennis star had publicly appealed to Chinese authorities, seeking intervention,



and was subsequently cleared to participate.

Looking ahead, Nagal is set to face the winner of the clash between top-seeded Bu Yunchaokete and Zijiang Yang in the quarter-finals. His strong start against Zhang will boost his confidence as he targets a wild-card entry into the prestigious Australian Open, which could be a significant milestone in his career.

This performance reflects Nagal's determination and resilience, as he overcomes both off-court challenges and tough competition. Tennis enthusiasts in India are closely watching his journey, hoping he can secure a spot in the 2026 Australian Open and make a mark on the international stage.

The event continues to feature competitive matches, drawing top players from across the Asia-Pacific, and promises an exciting buildup to the final rounds, with players vying for a rare chance to compete at one of tennis' Grand Slam tournaments.

Rohit Sharma Returns to No. 1 ODI Ranking; Starc Hits Career-High in Tests



India and Pakistan are set for another high-voltage showdown at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, with their group-stage clash scheduled for February 15 at Colombo's R. Premadasa Stadium. The marquee fixture will be their first meeting since India dominated a heated trilogy of matches in the 2024 Asia Cup.

The tournament schedule in Mumbai on Tuesday. As per early details, India have been drawn in the same group as Pakistan, USA, Namibia and the Netherlands.

India will open their campaign on the tournament's opening day, February 7, against the USA in Mumbai. They will then travel to Delhi to face Namibia on February 12, before heading to Colombo for the much-anticipated Pakistan encounter. Their final group match will take place against the Netherlands at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium.

The 2026 T20 World Cup, co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka, will run from February 7 to March 8. The format remains unchanged, featuring 20 teams divided into four groups of five. The top two teams from each group will advance to the Super Eight stage, which will again be split into two groups of four. The best two sides from each will qualify for the semifinals.

Depending on India's progression, their Super Eight fixtures are slated for Ahmedabad, Chennai and Kolkata. Should they reach the semifinals, India's match will be hosted in Mumbai. The second semifinal will be held either in Colombo or Kolkata, depending on Pakistan or Sri Lanka's qualification path. The final is scheduled in Ahmedabad, though the venue could shift to Colombo if Pakistan make the title clash.

Apart from co-hosts India and Sri Lanka, the 18 participating teams include Australia, England, South Africa, West Indies, New Zealand, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, USA, Ireland, Canada, Italy, Netherlands, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Nepal, Oman and UAE. India enter the tournament as defending champions after defeating South Africa in the 2024 final in Barbados.

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Gopichand-Jolly Advance in Syed Modi International



India's defending women's doubles champions Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly progressed to the second round of the USD 240,000 Syed Modi International Super 300 tournament on Tuesday. The pair overcame Malaysia's Cheng Su Hui and Tan Zhing Yi in a thrilling three-set match, winning 19-21, 22-20, 21-9. This marked a strong return for Gopichand, who recently resumed competitive play at the Australian Open after a five-month shoulder injury hiatus.

In other women's doubles action, Priya Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra cruised into the second round with a dominant 21-8, 21-11 win over compatriots Peeva Evangelin and Samriddhi Singh.

The men's doubles event also saw the fifth-seeded pair Hariharan Amsakarunan and M.R. Arjun advance comfortably, defeating Ayush Makhija and Sujey Tamboli 21-11, 21-13. The second seeds Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy and Sai Pratheek K. followed suit, winning 21-8, 21-17 against Swarnaraj Bora and Nibir Ranjan. Viplav Kuvale and Viraj Kuvale

Champions League Teenager Estevao stars in Chelsea's 3-0 win over Barcelona



Chelsea teenager Estevao stole the show as the London club secured a commanding 3-0 victory over Barcelona in the Champions League on Tuesday. The 18-year-old scored a brilliant individual goal, while Barcelona struggled with defensive errors, including an own goal and a red card, compounding their woes.

In another surprising result, Manchester City suffered a 2-0 defeat to Bayer Leverkusen in Pep Guardiola's 100th Champions League game as City manager. The Premier League leaders struggled to deal with Leverkusen's rapid counterattacks, leaving City unable to find their rhythm and marking a disappointing night for Guardiola's side.

Chelsea's win highlighted the impact of youth and individual brilliance. Estevao's goal came after a series of slick passes and intelligent movement, demonstrating his rising potential on the European stage. Barcelona, meanwhile, were unable to recover from the early setbacks, and their defensive lapses proved costly throughout the match.

For City, Leverkusen's disciplined play and swift transitions exposed vulnerabilities in Guardiola's normally solid side. Despite City's possession dominance, they were unable to convert chances or handle the German side's high-pressure attacks.

Tuesday's results have added fresh twists to the Champions League group standings, with Chelsea now asserting themselves as strong contenders, while Barcelona and City face uphill battles to advance. The night underscored football's unpredictability, where youthful talent and tactical discipline can overturn expectations, leaving even the biggest clubs vulnerable on Europe's grandest stage.

Chelsea and City fans will now look ahead to upcoming fixtures with contrasting emotions: elation in London and reflection in Manchester. Meanwhile, Estevao's performance has already sparked excitement among fans and pundits, heralding the arrival of a new star in European football.

Rakul Preet Opens Up on SPYder Failure



Actress Rakul Preet Singh has reflected on one of the most challenging phases of her career — the failure of SPYder, her much-hyped film with superstar Mahesh Babu directed by AR Murugadoss. In a recent interview, she revealed how the film’s disappointing performance at the box office impacted her on a personal level.

Rakul recalled being extremely excited when she signed SPYder, considering it a dream opportunity to work with a top star and a celebrated filmmaker. However, the film failed to meet expectations and was widely criticized, especially for its second-half narrative. The actress admitted that she had entered the project with high hopes, only to later realize that some aspects of film-making remain beyond an actor’s control.

She clarified that while she doesn’t view the film’s performance as her individual fail-

ure, the outcome did affect her emotionally. Yet, she emphasized that the experience ultimately taught her valuable lessons about the unpredictability of the film industry.

“I am not somebody who feels sad,” she shared. “I believe that failure makes us strong and aware. I thought to myself about how I can do things better next time. All we can do is make films and move on. Success is never in our hands. I learned that it is part of the process, and we must disconnect ourselves from it. Despite knowing that I gave my best, irrespective of the film’s result, I still celebrate myself.”

Rakul’s candid reflection offers insight into the pressures actors face and the resilience required to navigate highs and lows. With several new projects lined up, the actress remains focused on growth, choosing to embrace her journey — setbacks and all.

Hollywood Hit ‘Superman’ to Stream on Jio Hotstar



DC Studios’ blockbuster ‘Superman’ is set to make its OTT debut on Jio Hotstar from December 11, 2025, bringing the iconic superhero back to audiences in digital format. Directed by James Gunn, the film features David Kornswet in the titular role of Superman and Nicholas Hoult as the villainous Lex Luthor. The movie, which earned critical and commercial acclaim worldwide, combines high-octane action with emotional storytelling, making it a must-watch for superhero fans.

The film’s storyline centers on the fictional country of Bora-via, whose military plans to attack the city of Jahranpur. Superman uses his extraordinary powers to thwart the invasion, but he faces a new challenge in the form of Lex Luthor, who creates a weapon called the “Hammer of Bora-via” aimed at destroying the hero. Lex Luthor manipulates government officials and public opinion, portraying Superman as a threat to humanity.

Adding to the tension, a revelation by Superman’s ancestors surfaces, shedding light

on the true reasons for his arrival on Earth. This exposes him to widespread distrust and hostility from the public, intensifying his struggle to maintain his heroic image. The film explores how Superman navigates these challenges while proving his loyalty to the people, showcasing both his superhuman abilities and moral courage.

Superman receives crucial support from his love interest Lois Lane (played by Rachel Brosnahan) and a team of fellow superheroes, combining action, suspense, and emotional depth. Fans can look forward to spectacular battles, clever strategies, and moments of heartfelt connection that highlight the essence of the superhero genre.

The upcoming OTT release allows audiences to enjoy this global hit from the comfort of their homes, promising a thrilling and immersive experience. With its mix of action, drama, and superhero spectacle, ‘Superman’ is set to capture hearts once again as it streams on Jio Hotstar starting December 11.

Allu Arjun & Mrunal Hint at March 2026 Update

Icon star Allu Arjun’s upcoming film with director Atlee Kumar is generating fresh buzz, thanks to subtle yet intriguing hints from both the actor and actress Mrunal Thakur. While the team has remained tight-lipped about official announcements, recent social media clues suggest that a major update may be slated for March 2026.

The film, touted as a futuristic action spectacle set in a parallel universe, is currently progressing at a brisk pace. The unit has been deeply involved in continuous shooting schedules, building high expectations around this ambitious collaboration. Amid this, Mrunal Thakur recently shared an Instagram story that stirred excitement among fans. Her cryptic post hinted at “something coming in March,” immediately fueling speculation about the film’s next big reveal.

Adding to the curiosity, a photo of Allu



Arjun’s phone wallpaper has gone viral on social media. The wallpaper, showing the date March 27, 2026, has triggered discussions about whether this marks the

film’s update date—or possibly something even bigger. The picture also revealed a note on the star’s device that read “No Snack, No Sugar, No Soda,” suggesting he is undergoing an intense physical transformation for the role.

Industry insiders believe that by March next year, the team might wrap up a substantial portion of the shoot, positioning it as the perfect time to unveil a teaser, look poster, or major announcement. Given Atlee’s flair for crafting mass entertainers and Allu Arjun’s knack for iconic character portrayals, expectations are soaring.

While fans eagerly decode every hint, the makers have maintained suspense, promising that more details will be revealed in due time. For now, all eyes are on March 2026, where something significant seems to be brewing for this high-profile venture.

NBK 111 Officially Launched; Balakrishna Returns in Dual Role



While the buzz around Akhanda 2: Thaandavam continues to dominate fan circles, Nandamuri Balakrishna has quietly set his next major project in motion. The actor has officially launched his new film, tentatively titled NBK 111, marking a reunion with director Gopichand Malineni, who previously delivered a solid hit with Veera Simha Reddy.

The makers unveiled the project with a traditional muhurtam ceremony, accompanied by a striking poster that immediately caught everyone’s attention. The design features Balakrishna in two contrasting looks, strongly hinting that the star will once again be seen in a dual

role, a format he has excelled in throughout his career. The film is described as a historic drama mounted on an impressive scale, signaling a grand cinematic experience for fans.

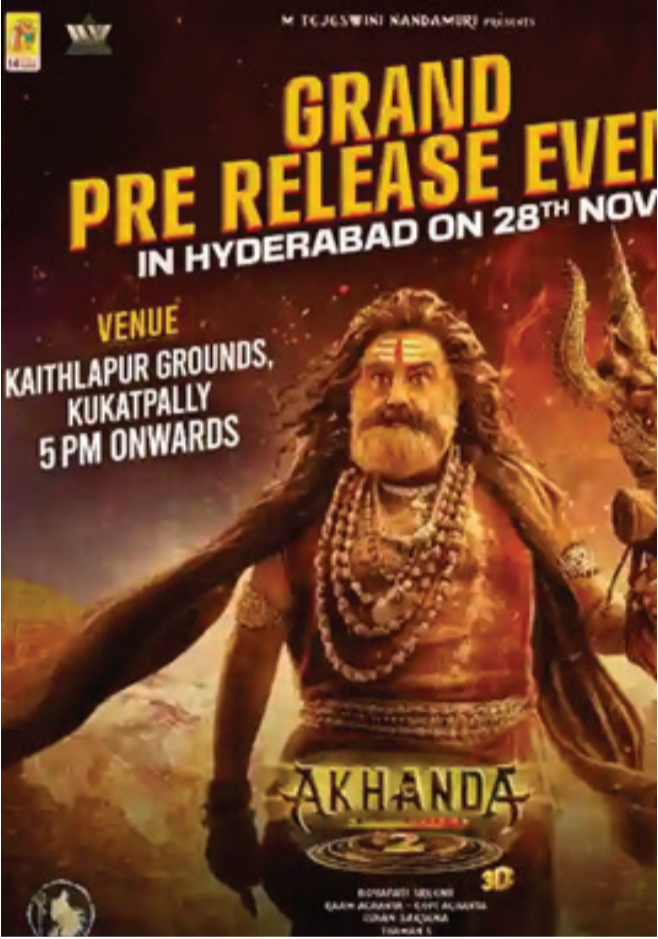
Vridhhi Cinemas, the banner behind Peddi, is producing this ambitious project. The production house is reportedly planning to bring in a powerful ensemble cast. Confirming earlier reports, the team has locked Nayanthara as the female lead, marking an exciting pairing that many fans have been eager to see again. More notable actors are expected to join the cast as the makers finalize key roles.

Thaman, who has consistently delivered mass-

heavy soundtracks for Balakrishna’s recent films, is expected to helm the music department once more. His involvement is already generating high expectations for the film’s audio and background score.

With the formal launch now complete, the team is gearing up to begin shoot schedules soon. Further updates regarding filming timelines, additional cast, and release plans will be announced in the coming weeks. As anticipation for Akhanda 2 rises, the announcement of NBK 111 adds yet another layer of excitement for Balakrishna’s fans, promising a power-packed year ahead for the star.

Akhanda 2 Pre-Release Event Set; Chief Guest Mystery Continues



The team behind Akhanda 2: Thaandavam is keeping the promotional wave strong following the impressive response to the Karnataka trailer launch. Their next major stop is Hyderabad, where a grand pre-release event has now been officially locked.

Nandamuri Balakrishna and director Boyapati Sreenu will lead the celebrations on November 28, 2025, at Kaitlapur Grounds, Kukatpally. The program is scheduled to begin after 5 PM, with the makers planning a high-energy evening for fans. Given the franchise’s massive following, the turnout is expected to be substantial, mirroring the enthusiasm witnessed in Karnataka.

Even before the official invitations have rolled out, discussions around the chief guest lineup are already creating a buzz. Industry circles suggest that Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy might grace the event. Parallely, speculation that Allu Arjun could make a surprise appearance has

gained traction across social media platforms. However, the production team has remained tight-lipped, promising to reveal confirmed details soon.

Akhanda 2, the much-awaited continuation of the Balakrishna–Boyapati mass blockbuster, is set for a December 5, 2025, theatrical release. The sequel features a strong ensemble cast, including Samyuktha, Aadi Pinisetty, Kabir Duhan Singh, and several others in pivotal roles.

Backed by 14 Reels Plus, the film boasts music by Thaman, who returns to elevate the franchise’s signature intensity with his score. The movie is slated for a multilingual release, including a wide Hindi version, and will be available in both 2D and 3D formats to maximize its reach.

With just days left for the grand Hyderabad event, fans are eagerly waiting for clarity on the guest list—adding yet another layer of excitement to the pre-release buzz surrounding Akhanda 2: Thaandavam.